

From: **Nancy Smith Lea** <nsmithlea@tcat.ca>
Date: Wed, Nov 30, 2011 at 5:01 PM
Subject: submission for cycling deaths in Ontario review
To: occo.inquiries@ontario.ca

Dear Dr. Cass,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation.

I have considerable experience in the topic of cycling safety which may be helpful to you. I was a member of the committee formed by the Regional Coroner of Toronto resulting in the 1998 report of recommendations for reducing cycling injuries and death and I provided input into the 2003 City of Toronto's staff report: Toronto Bicycle/Motor-Vehicle Collision Study. I am currently the TCAT representation on the research team of the University of British Columbia's Bicyclists Injuries and the Cycling Environment large-scale research project.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to you in advance of your review of cycling deaths in Ontario during the last five years. In addition to the Nov 8, 2011 letter that I was a signatory on from the University of British Columbia team, I want to highlight two further details for your consideration as you are making your recommendations:

1. From my experience with the previous coroner's review on this topic, we found that it was helpful to expand the scope of the review to include injuries as well and you may want to consider doing the same. This is due to the fact that there are relatively few cycling fatalities so it can be difficult to extrapolate patterns. Additionally, there is often not any discernible difference between the circumstances resulting in a fatal or non-fatal collision.
2. Take into account the environment within which people cycle. Street design and (lack of) proper bicycling facilities should be considered as important contributory factors, not only individual action or error.

I would be more than happy to assist you in any way in your review.

Thank you for undertaking this important study to improve the safety of cyclists across Ontario.

Regards,
Nancy Smith Lea

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