

The Honourable Denis Lebel
Transport Canada
Minister's Office
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April 10, 2012

Dear Mr. Lebel,

Bike Calgary is a non-profit organization working to promote transportation cycling and to improve safety for cyclists in Calgary, Alberta. We would like to add our voice in support of bill C-344, tabled by Olivia Chow (MP Trinity-Spadina). Bill C-344 would make a significant contribution to cyclist and pedestrian safety by requiring trucks operating on Canada's roads to be equipped with side guards or fairings. These would prevent cyclists or pedestrians hit by a truck from being swept under the rear wheels of the truck or its trailer.

According to the Alberta Ministry of Transport's report on Bicycle Involved Collisions, six cyclists are killed on average on Alberta's roads every year. Trucks pose a much higher risk of fatality for cyclists: about one in four fatal cyclist collisions involve trucks, compared with 1 in 30 in non-fatal collisions.¹ Although no Canadian data is available, Australian studies show the involvement of the side of trucks in crashes with unprotected road users is common, occurring in 40% of cases.²

Recent and widely publicized incidents in Canada include the death of Jessica Holman-Price, who was run over by a snow removal truck in Montreal in 2005, and the death of Toronto cyclist Jenna Morrison last year. Sideguards might also have saved the life of a Calgary cyclist involved in a collision with a recycling truck in 2004 and minimized the injuries to a Regina cyclist caught under the wheels of a semi-truck just over a week ago.

We call on you as Minister of Transportation to prioritize the safety of vulnerable road users by supporting bill C-344 and to work with Canada's trucking industry to prevent such tragic incidents. Side guards on trucks would be one important step in this direction.

Sincerely,

Brent Clark
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brent Clark", is written over a horizontal line.

1 <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType48/Production/BicycleInvolvedCollisions2004-2008.pdf>

2 <http://www.monash.edu.au/miri/research/reports/muarc035.html>

CC:

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