



***Bike to the Future***  
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[www.biketothefuture.org](http://www.biketothefuture.org)

April 25, 2012

The Honourable Denis Lebel  
Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities  
Transport Canada  
Place de Ville  
Tower C, 29th Floor  
330 Sparks Street  
Mail Stop: XA  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0N5

Dear Mr. Lebel:

Re: Legislation to make side-guards for trucks mandatory

Winnipeg's Bike to the Future is a non-profit organization concerned about the safety of cyclists and the public benefits of promoting cycling generally.

We are writing in support of Member of Parliament (MP) Olivia Chow's private member's bill (C-344) asking for side guards (under-run protection) to be made mandatory on trucks in Canada. As you know, recently, in different parts of Canada, a number of cyclists have been tragically killed by being sucked under trucks.

The recommendation for side-guards came from a recommendation by the Regional Coroner for Toronto to investigate causes of cyclists' deaths. The Regional Coroner for Toronto concluded that trucks and other heavy vehicles were involved in 37% of crashes leading to the death of a cyclist. The study of cyclists' deaths in BC over the period 1986 to 1995 prepared by the British Columbia Coroner shows that in 34% of the cases a cyclist died as a result of a collision with a truck or other heavy vehicle – a disproportionate fraction. This latter analysis also shows that bicycle helmets offer only limited protection in accidents with trucks, especially when the cyclist is pulled under the wheels of the truck or the trailer.

We understand that studies have shown that closed (solid) side-guards give between 4-7% fuel efficiency gains, in addition to protecting cyclists.

Bike to the Future requests that the Minister support this bill in order to save the lives of cyclists and pedestrians, to reduce truck fuel costs and to help the environment.

Sincerely,

Tom McMahan  
Co-chair, Bike to the Future