

## Citizens for Safe Cycling

PO Box 248, Station B  
Ottawa, ON K1P 6C4

[www.SafeCycling.ca](http://www.SafeCycling.ca)  
[info@SafeCycling.ca](mailto:info@SafeCycling.ca)  
tel/fax 613-722-4454



## Citoyens pour la sécurité en vélo

CP 248, Succ B  
Ottawa, ON K1P 6C4

[www.SafeCycling.ca](http://www.SafeCycling.ca)  
[info@SafeCycling.ca](mailto:info@SafeCycling.ca)  
tél/télé 613-722-4454

February 14, 2012

The Honourable Denis Lebel  
Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities  
Government of Canada  
330 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0N5

Re: Truck Side Guard Legislation

Dear Minister Lebel:

Citizens for Safe Cycling is Ottawa's community bicycle advocacy group. Since 1984, our volunteers have encouraged Ottawa's residents to cycle, through distributing safety information, participating in events organized by schools and community groups, and advising the City of Ottawa on best practices to improve the cycling environment in our city. We have reviewed road and path plans, taught defensive cycling techniques to children and adults, and worked with the police to ensure both motorists and cyclists obey the rules of the road.

Although cycling is a safe way to travel in Canada, there are still too many avoidable cycling collisions and injuries. In 2009, 41 cyclists died in Canada. Many of those deaths could have been prevented by addressing traffic problems in an earlier stage. Cities in Canada are increasingly promoting cycling to residents as well as to tourists. This will result in more cyclists on the road. We therefore believe it is important to be proactive by introducing better legislation to protect cyclists on Canada's roads.

One known danger to both cyclists and pedestrians is being sucked underneath a truck which has passed too closely; this can be prevented by truck side guards. Nearly five years ago, Member of Parliament Olivia Chow introduced a petition in the House of Commons asking for legislation requiring trucks and trailers in Canada to have underrun protection similar to the European ECE Regulation No. 73. The EU legislation requires open underrun side guard racks. Canada could be ahead of the EU by making closed underrun protection mandatory, leapfrogging the open underrun side guards.

CfSC strongly believes that everyone has a responsibility on the road; however, given that cyclists are more vulnerable than truck drivers, cyclists need extra protection. With rather simple and cheap solutions, such as side guards and blind spot mirrors, we can make Canada's roads safer. Making these solutions mandatory would increase traffic safety for all road users and it would also reduce health care and insurance costs.

Citizens for Safe Cycling urges you to initiate and support legislation on this issue that will make Canada's streets and highways safer for all road users,

Sincerely,

Hans Moor  
President, Citizens for Safe Cycling  
[President@SafeCycling.ca](mailto:President@SafeCycling.ca)

Cc: Olivia Chow, MP for Trinity-Spadina