



HOUSE OF COMMONS
OFFICE OF THE HON. HEDY FRY, P.C., M.P.

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FRY COMMENDS INTRAWEST ON HELMET POLICY

VANCOUVER - The Hon. Hedy Fry, MP for Vancouver Centre, today applauded Intrawest's decision to introduce helmet requirements at its North American resorts.

"Intrawest has shown itself to be a leader in social responsibility by voluntarily introducing new helmet requirements and updating its advertising to promote helmet use," said Dr. Fry. "I am hopeful that other ski operators will follow Intrawest's lead and adopt mandatory helmet requirements as a best practice throughout the industry."

Dr. Fry put forward a Private Members Bill, C-289, in 2007 in the House of Commons which would amend Part I of Section I of the Hazardous Products Act to ban recreational snow sports helmets that do not meet the requirements of the Canadian Standards Association standard CSA-Z263.1.

"Wearing protective helmets can reduce the risk of head injury by 60 percent, but Canadians need to be assured that the helmets they wear meet CSA standards," said Dr. Fry. "The amendment to the HPA that I'm suggesting can easily be done by a stroke of the pen through Cabinet, since all opposition parties agree with my bill's intent. Each year of delay costs lives and preventable brain injury, especially amongst youth and children."

Dr. Fry's Private Members Bill is also supported by the Canadian Medical Association, Brain Injury Association of Canada, Insurance Bureau of Canada, Dave Irwin Foundation for Brain Injury, Alzheimer Society of Canada, Canadian Paediatric Society and l'Association des médecins d'urgence du Québec.

"Intrawest's decision will go a long way to promote recreational helmet use, but we need to be sure that those helmets are safe," Dr. Fry concluded.

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CONTACTS

OTTAWA
Katherine Day 613-220-0275

VANCOUVER
Zachary Mallett 604-762-4386
Barbara Snelgrove 604-202-1336