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FRY CHALLENGES GOVERNMENT TO ACT ON HELMET REPORT

OTTAWA – Dr. Hedy Fry, MP for Vancouver Centre is appalled that the government has still not acted to amend the Hazardous Products Act especially in light of a recent Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ) study which shows that helmets reduce the risk of head injury among skiers and snowboarders by 35%.

"It is irresponsible of the Harper government to continue to drag its feet for three years on my helmet bill," said Fry. "Especially when with a simple stroke of the pen, Cabinet can amend the Hazardous Products Act to prevent devastating brain injury in recreational ski and snow sports"

Dr. Fry's Bill, C-289, seeks to amend the Hazardous Products Act to add recreational snow sport helmets. While hockey and lacrosse helmets must meet Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards under hazardous-products legislation, helmets for sports such as snowboarding and skiing do not have to.

Dr. Fry first introduced her bill in March 2007 and it remains on the list of bills to be debated. So while it has the support of all opposition parties, as well as the Canadian Medical Association, the Alzheimer Society of Canada, the Brain Injury Association of Canada, the Insurance Bureau of Canada and ThinkFirst successive Conservative Health Ministers have failed to fast-track it through Governor-in-Council.

" If as it is clearly shown, helmet use decreases brain injury by 35%, and we know that the CSA has now developed the most rigorous ski and snow sport helmet standards in the world," Dr Fry commented, "why would our government fail to promote those standards? "

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