

Ministry of Tourism,
Culture and Sport

Sport, Recreation and
Community Programs Division

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MAY 31 2013

Dear Sport and Recreation Partner:

SUBJECT: Concussion Awareness

The government is committed to giving all Ontarians the support they need to lead safe, healthy and active lives. I am pleased at this time to inform you of the work undertaken to raise awareness about concussion prevention, identification and management for Ontarians of all ages. This coincides with *Safe Kids Week*, May 27 to June 2, 2013, for which this year's theme is *Heads Up! Be Alert. Be Safe. Be Aware of Concussions*.

In March 2012, the government announced the Ontario Concussion Strategy – a multi-ministry strategy to build awareness about concussions. Since that date, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) has been collaborating with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and key stakeholders across the three sectors to help ensure that Ontarians have access to high standards of sport safety and concussion awareness in all the spaces where they participate in sport and recreation activities.

We are thankful for the participation of the following MTCS stakeholders and partners who worked on the government's subcommittee and provided advice to the three ministries on the development of the strategy. They are: Sport Alliance Ontario, Sport4Ontario, Coaches Association of Ontario, Parks & Recreation Ontario and the Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of Ontario.

While much valuable work has been done recently in the field of concussions, government can play a role in helping to ensure that everyone who supports athletes and recreation participants, as they play and compete, has easy access to current, accurate and useful information and resources.

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With this objective in mind, we have collaborated on the development of a one-window webpage that provides an inventory of evidence-based resources for parents, teachers, coaches/officials, athletes and recreation/sport providers. And, building on the government-supported work to create the Ontario Physical Education Safety Guidelines, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport has developed Concussion Guidelines for the sport and recreation community. These can serve as a resource to your organization as you develop your own concussion guidelines.

You may access this site by clicking on this link: www.ontario.ca/concussions. Click on "Resources" to see a range of information for all audiences.

We commend the organizations that have already identified concussion prevention and management as a focus area for your sport and have developed and/or promoted concussion resources on your own website. We would welcome your partnership in this effort and ask that organizations with websites provide a link to this new provincial concussion webpage to further promote awareness of this safety issue.

To support our shared interest in a safe sport environment, the Ministry:

- will continue to support the work of the Coaches Association of Ontario in ensuring coaches in Ontario have enhanced concussion management education opportunities;
- will require any community recreation provider and Provincial/Multi-Sport Organization receiving funding from the Ministry to adopt a risk management policy, including concussion prevention and management

We hope, with your involvement, we can all raise awareness about the importance of concussions and help sport and recreation participants play and compete safely.

Sincerely,



Susan Golets
Director
Sport, Recreation & Community Programs Division