

Dear Premier Higgs,

Thank you for the response on December 13th to Mr Arrowsmith's inquiry regarding cycling safety amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act. On behalf of Saint John Cycling, we kindly ask you to reconsider your position.

In our meeting with Minister Urquhart, we often heard that amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act are not a priority due to the legislature being in a minority government position. We disagree. We believe this is a non-partisan issue which all parties can support, much like Ellen's Law in 2017. For that reason, I have included all party leaders on this email.

I have often heard you be candid in the media regarding your lack of appreciation for partisan politics. I want to assure you that Saint John Cycling also has no interest in this becoming a partisan issue. Again, road safety is a non-partisan issue. Let's come together and continue to honour the legacy of Ellen Watters.

A very first step would be for members of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy to consider an amendment to Bill 16. Although we do not wish to impede the passage of this important bill, the proposed fine for distracted driving is still one of the lowest in Canada. A simple amendment that increases the fine would be quick, easy and consistent with other fines in Canada. A list of fines in other provinces can be found on CAA's website: <https://www.caa.ca/distracted-driving/distracted-driving-laws-in-canada/>

I have also attached the July 2018 report of the Bicycle Safety Strategy Working Group. We are asking for all party leaders to support the implementation of these recommendations. We understand it will take time to develop the corresponding legislation, but much of the heavy lifting has already been done by the working group. To move forward, we need re-assurance from political leaders that our efforts are worth continuing.

We look forward to working with your government and other political parties in the best interest of road safety for all users, but especially most vulnerable users such as cyclists, pedestrian, emergency workers, and people with disabilities.

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