

# Manitoba



**Family Services and Labour**  
Early Learning and Child Care  
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**Services à la famille et Travail**  
Apprentissage et garde des jeunes enfants  
219 - 114, rue Garry, Winnipeg (MB) Canada R3C 4V6  
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[www.manitoba.ca/gardedenfants](http://www.manitoba.ca/gardedenfants)

August 2013

Dear Director:

You recently received a letter from Healthy Living, Seniors and Consumer Affairs regarding two important injury prevention initiatives to improve road safety for children. I am writing to provide information as to how the recent changes to *The Highway Traffic Act* requiring the use of bike helmets and booster seats affect your child care facility.

### Bike Helmets

Effective May 1, 2013, everyone under the age of 18 is required to wear a bike helmet when they're cycling, riding as a passenger or being pulled by a bike. Please be aware that the law applies to two-wheeled bicycles, tricycles and any other pedal powered wheeled transportation that a child might ride. As such, child care centres must ensure that children wear a properly fitted and fastened protective helmet when riding any type of bike or riding toy with pedals on the centre's property as well as in any public space such as a sidewalk, park or roadway.

Centres are encouraged to have individual helmets for each child as it is very important for a bicycle helmet to fit properly. Whether a helmet is provided by your centre or a child's family, you must ensure it fits properly. Use this easy "2V1" rule as a technique when putting on a child's helmet:

- With the helmet sitting level on the child's head, there should be no more than 2 (two) fingers between the eyebrows and the bottom of the helmet;
- The side straps should form a V shape just below the ears; and
- Adjust the chin strap so only 1 (one) finger fits between the chin and the strap.

To assist families and child care facilities in meeting this requirement, I would like to remind you about Manitoba's *Low-Cost Bike Helmet Initiative*. Information about this initiative is sent to child care facilities each November. Orders are due in December and helmets are shipped to child care facilities in the spring. Please note that child care facilities, as well as parents can purchase helmets through this initiative.

Please see the enclosed brochure: *I Cycle Safely* and visit the Healthy Living, Seniors and Consumer Affairs website at [www.gov.mb.ca/healthyliving/hlp/bikesafety/](http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthyliving/hlp/bikesafety/) for additional information.

Booster Seats

Effective August 8, 2013, protective booster seats are required for children who have outgrown forward-facing car seats but are still too small to safely use a seatbelt on their own. The use of booster seats is required until children are at least 145 centimetres (4'9") tall, 36 kilograms (80 pounds), or nine years old. Child care facilities must meet the requirements for car seats and/or booster seats based on each child's height, weight and age when transporting children in a vehicle as required under Manitoba Regulation 62/86 Section 8(10) Transportation Policy.

For additional information, visit the Healthy Living, Seniors and Consumer Affairs website at [www.gov.mb.ca/healthyliving/hlp/injury/booster.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthyliving/hlp/injury/booster.html). For a list of fire halls offering free inspections and resources about child seat safety, visit the Manitoba Public Insurance website at <http://www.mpi.mb.ca/en/Rd-Safety/Car-Seats/Pages/Inspections.aspx>.

A translated version of this letter will be sent to centres that request their correspondence in French as soon as possible.

If you have questions, please contact your Child Care Coordinator. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter and for your continued commitment to the health, safety and well-being of children at your child care facility.

Sincerely,



Carla Kernsted  
Child Care Safety Specialist  
Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care

Enclosures

cc: Child Care Coordinators