**Question: Jennifer Munro-Galloway December 8 2016:**

Hi Everyone,

As mentioned in my update in Ottawa, the Ontario Ministry of Education has been working on a Student Injury Prevention project for several years.

As we continue policy work in this area, we wanted to get a sense of what initiatives other P/Ts may have in place in this area – whether it’s an official system-wide policy that schools/district school boards must follow; a strategy with some specific tactics to increase safety-mindedness; plans related to safety for specific curriculum areas, etc.

In this context, we are focused on unintentional, physical injuries during the school day (for example, preventing accidents in the science lab or during physical education/gym classes), and with related extensions of the school day (recess/playground; possibly field trips and experiential learning).

**Anything you can share back with us by December 21, 2016 is very much appreciated.** We developed the attached template if it is useful, so you can see the types of information we are interested in.

If you have any relevant documents to share, we appreciate you sharing those as well.

Once the scan is completed, we will share with the Secretariat to upload to the private side of the website. Also, we may propose this as an agenda item for a future management committee for discussion.

If you have questions, please let me know.

Many thanks everyone,

Jennifer

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1. **Name of Policy / Strategy / Plan:**
2. **Applies to (select one):**

All schools

Elementary Schools

Secondary Schools

Specific Curriculum Area(s) (*please specify – e.g., The Arts; Health and Physical Education; Science; Technological Education*):

1. **Key Elements Addressed (select all that apply):**

Awareness/Education

Emergency Management

Evaluation

Facility/ Equipment inspection

Monitoring

Occasional Teachers

Prevention

Procurement

Reporting

Roles and Responsibilities

Training

Other (*please specify*)

1. **Authority** *(e.g., if linked to legislation, regulation, policy, etc.)*

1. **Lead Responsibility** *(for both policy development and for implementation within the school system)*
2. **Evaluation / Measures**
3. **Resources for Implementation** *(e.g., training materials, templates, guidelines)*
4. **Additional Comments**

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**Responses:**

**1. Jeff Bath AB December 14 2016:**

Hi Jennifer,

In Alberta schools, safety policies are a responsibility of the school jurisdiction. There are two Alberta Education authorized resources that school jurisdictions may use for guidelines for the development of their safety policies as it relates to physical activity and science labs.

1. Safety in the Science Classroom K-12  - <https://education.alberta.ca/media/371212/safety-science-classroom.pdf>

2)      Safety Guidelines for Physical Activity in Schools - <http://injurypreventioncentre.ca/documents/policies/SG_PA_Final_2014.pdf>

·         These guidelines have been developed to assist school authorities in their formulation of site-specific safety guidelines for physical activity in Alberta schools. Implementation of safety guidelines should in all cases be preceded by a close review of these guidelines and appropriate modification on the part of each school authority in order to meet the specific requirements and circumstances of their respective school programs.

·         Each school authority assumes the risks associated with the implementation and customizing of the safety guidelines. The editors and sponsoring partners make no representations or warranties, either expressed or implied, as to any matter including the condition, quality or freedom from error of the safety guidelines. Each school authority assumes the risk of defects or inaccuracies in the guidelines as supplied by the editors and sponsoring partners and the editors and sponsoring partners will have no liability, consequential damages, special damages, punitive damages or otherwise which might arise from the use by the school authorities of the safety guidelines.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Regards,

Jeff

Jeff Bath

**2. Scott Beddall BC December 18 2016:**

I’m unaware of anything specific to schools and injury prevention at the moment.

The Injury Prevention Policy Advisory Committee (IP-PAC) is working on a 2-stage prioritization process for key injuries across the province. Stage 1 is complete; stage 2 of the prioritization process is to take place in January.

Once that is done the recommendations with the top 3 injuries for the province will be made to the Prevention and Health Promotion Policy Advisory Committee (PHPPAC) and Public Health Executive Committee (PHEC)*.*

Once approved, the IP-PAC will produce an annual work plan and a five year strategic plan for injury prevention which will include what is stated in goal #5 of the Guiding Framework and will set out more in terms of targeted audiences, which will likely include schools within health authority service areas.

Concussion work is another matter of course, given the focus of the FPT Working Group on Prevention of Concussion in Sport; this work includes targeting child and youth participants in sport in all contexts, including schools – but is not yet at the point of having a harmonized approach for all schools etc.

The Active and Safe BC work being conducted by the BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit is underway and being led by Dr. Shelina Babul and Dr. Ian Pike. This work is aimed at creating a single-point online resource organized by sport or recreational activity and will make information sheets for each physical activity available to the public. These information sheets are also to be distributed to schools and organizations which promote physical activity and guidelines are to be tailored to target audiences including parents, youth and coaches. This work is currently under way with Phase 2 reviews in progress and Phase 3 planning begun.

Parachute has networks with reach into 100 schools in Canada: <http://www.parachutecanada.org/networks> to support the No Regrets program and special youth-focused injury campaigns, such as teen driver safety.  Public support is integral to the successful implementation of these programs, and the school community, along with Parachute, works with local injury prevention champions, health units, emergency services, and health and safety groups to ensure these programs flourish.  To find out more about No Regrets and which schools are involved, please contact the [contact the Solutions Department](mailto:noregrets@parachutecanada.org?subject=No%20Regrets%20Inquiry) at Parachute [noregrets@parachutecanada.org](mailto:noregrets@parachutecanada.org)

Of course falls, sports and rec injuries, submersion and drowning, Road Safety and transportation-related injuries (including as vulnerable road users and as youth drivers) and accidental poisoning and burns are all mechanisms for high injury rates among children <http://www.injuryresearch.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Child-Youth-Ages-Stages-Nov-2010.pdf> and all are subjects of prevention messaging across the province, by individual organizations including our own, but aren’t necessarily aimed at the school context.

See:

<https://www.healthyfamiliesbc.ca/home/blog/pedestrian-safety-tips-teach-kids>

<https://www.healthyfamiliesbc.ca/home/blog/how-protect-kids-driveway-hazards>

In addition to their update, a little while back we did work with our injury prevention colleagues on the development of an action guide that addressed injury prevention through a CSH lens - <http://www.healthyschoolsbc.ca/program/632/healthy-schools-bc-action-guides>.

Hope this helps, and let me know if you have any questions!

Cheers,

Scott