



June 4, 2013

Kathy Burianyk  
Committee Clerk, Special Committee on Traffic Safety  
Room 7, 2405 Legislative Drive  
Regina, SK S4S 0B3  
[committees@legassembly.sk.ca](mailto:committees@legassembly.sk.ca)

Dear Ms. Burianyk:

This letter is in response to your communication sent April 2, 2013 regarding the Special Committee on Traffic Safety. The Saskatchewan Safety Council is grateful to be asked to present to the committee as preventing injuries and fatalities in the province of Saskatchewan has been the foundation of our organization since 1955. I believe we would not be able to properly capsule the message into a single presentation but would like the Committee to consider making use of the Council as an expert agency. It is because of this that I would like to formally request that the Saskatchewan Safety Council be a part of the review and recommendations process.

The Council was originally formed as the Saskatchewan Highway Safety Council by the Minister-in-charge of the Highway Traffic Board and SGIO as a public, voluntary organization with the purpose to reduce the growing number of deaths and injuries on Saskatchewan roads. Today, the Saskatchewan Safety Council is a non-profit registered charity with over 400 member organizations and representatives dedicated to preventing injuries and fatalities in the province of Saskatchewan.

Throughout our history we have acted as advocates and advisors on safety issues to the people of this province.

In 1958 the Council was requested to develop the first Driver Education program for Saskatchewan high school students. Saskatchewan became the first province in Canada to offer universal high school driver education. The Council also offered the first motorcycle safety courses in the early 1970's, a program that is still offered today.

The Council played a lead role in advocacy for the seatbelt and child seat legislation enacted in the 1970's and addressed the notion that it should be socially unacceptable to drink and drive with programs such as "SafeGrad" and "Vince and Larry the crash test dummies". It was the Council that brought "SADD" (Students Against Drinking and Driving) to the province in the early 1980's.

We have been involved in many other traffic related initiatives including the delivery of the mandatory snowmobile safety course and the Work Zone Traffic Accommodation courses to the Saskatchewan construction industry.

During the 1970's the Saskatchewan Safety Council played a prominent role providing input and expertise for the Special Legislative Committee on Highway Traffic and Safety chaired by Mr Art Thibault. The Committee at that time also participated in a Defensive Driving Course presented by the Council to gain additional valuable information.

It is important to recognize the success in reducing traffic fatalities that the province has previously achieved. In the 25 years between 1979 and 2004 the number of Canadians who died from motor vehicle collisions nationwide declined by 52%.

Over the past 58 years we have become the provincial experts in traffic safety. It is this same expertise that the Council is offering the current Special Committee on Traffic Safety. We know that by working together we can continue to positively impact the collision and fatality rates and create a safer Saskatchewan.

I would also like to extend an invitation to the Committee to attend a Defensive Driving course on a date of your choosing. This course is attended by over 6000 participants each year and offers a wealth of excellent information.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Toupin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Harley Toupin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Saskatchewan Safety Council