



Bike to the Future
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Hon. Jim Rondeau
Minister for Healthy Living
Government of Manitoba
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Dear Mr. Rondeau:

Your recently reported speech touching on legislating the use of helmets by cyclists has triggered a predictable flurry of controversy, even in the middle of winter!

Bicycles contribute to enhancing health living if people believe that they can safely and conveniently leave their car at home, and ride their bicycle to run errands, go to school, get to work, or just for fun.

We believe that, when government prepares legislation to make it safer and more attractive for all kinds of people to cycle, there are far more effective options than asking the police to harass cyclists with tickets if they ride without a helmet!

Nova Scotia has taken the lead in Canada in legislating what 13 states in the USA call the “3 foot law”. In Nova Scotia, the “one meter law” requires that vehicles allow a meter of clearance when they pass a bicycle. Ontario is considering a similar rule. We believe Manitoba’s first priority in improving cycling safety should be to immediately establish a “one meter rule”. It will clarify the rules of the road, make cycling safer, and make it feel safer, which will encourage more people to choose to cycle for short distance trips, enjoying healthy exercise as they travel.

Yours sincerely,

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cc.

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