

# Safety for Ontario's young athletes

**To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:**

**WHEREAS** the rate of concussions among children and youth has increased significantly from 2003 to 2011, from 466 to 754 per 100,000 for boys, and from 208 to 440 per 100,000 for girls; and

**WHEREAS** hard falls and the use of force, often found in full-contact sports such as hockey and rugby, have been found to be the cause of over half of all hospital visits for pediatric concussions; and

**WHEREAS** the signs and symptoms of concussions can be difficult to identify unless coaches, mentors, youth and parents have been educated to recognize them; and

**WHEREAS** preventative measures, such as rules around return-to-play for young athletes who have suspected concussions, as well as preventative education and awareness have been found to significantly decrease the danger of serious or fatal injuries; and

**WHEREAS** Bill 39, *An Act to amend the Education Act with respect to concussions*, was introduced in 2012, but never passed;

**WHEREAS** 49 recommendations to increase awareness, training and education around concussions were made by a jury after the coroner's inquest into the concussion death of Rowan Stringer;

**THEREFORE, we the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:** That the Wynne government review and adopt Rowan's Law to ensure the safety and health of children and youth athletes across the province.

Name (printed)	Address	City	Postal Code	Email	Signature