

ONTARIO ATHLETIC THERAPIST ASSOCIATION



Hon. Lisa MacLeod,
Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries.
Sixth Floor, 438 University Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario, M5G 2K8.

Dear Minister,

Today is Rowan's Law Day.

I'm contacting you on behalf of the OATA and our over 1000 Members in Ontario in acknowledgement of Rowan's Law Day and to honour the memory of Rowan Stringer. This is a day that the OATA recalls vividly because of your personal and professional leadership role spearheading the Rowan's law initiative and our role in standing with you in that effort. You were an Opposition MPP at the time. Your vision, initiative and collaboration with Rowan's family raised the bar on reducing the risk of the type of accident that claimed Rowan's life.

You, of course, you will recall that the Recommendations of the Coroner's Jury included a recommendation that an Athletic Trainer/Athletic Therapist be present in school high-risk sports, both during practice injuring games,

We also hope you recall the OATA was one of the first organizations to support your Private Member's Bill to implement Rowan's Law and that we made both an oral presentation and a written submission to the Standing Committee in favour of the Bill. The OATA champions by your side were Drew Laskoski and Frances Flint.

Despite the OATA's deep roots in Rowan's Law and our Members' extensive expertise in the assessment and management of sports-related concussions, I am sorry to report to you that the OATA has been pushed away from your Ministry's interprofessional table overseeing the implementation and refinement of Rowan's Law.

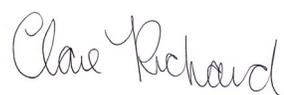
Our absence from the Working Group is distressing, but more importantly is clearly at odds with the objectives you set with Rowan's Law. We believe we bring a unique perspective to the assessment and management of sports-related concussions that would bring significant value-added to the deliberations of the group and all at the decision-making table. We therefore ask for your support in bringing the OATA back to the Rowan's Law Working Group and related initiatives.

Once again, the OATA would like to acknowledge the leadership role you played in making Rowan's Law a reality and we offer our perspective and expertise to assist in achieving its objectives.

Sincerely,



Andy Playter, President



Clare Richard, Chair

