

Comparison of Law-making re: helmets by the Province and the City of Toronto

	Bicycle helmet law - Province	City Helmet Policy
Decision-makers	Members of the Provincial legislature	City Staff
Means of obtaining Position	Democratically elected by Ontario citizens	Hired by City Staff - no public input
Accountable to:	People who live in Ontario (voters)	No direct accountability to people who live in Toronto
Term of offices / employment	4-5 year	Possibly for 35+ years
Process for Passing law/ policy	1st reading – objectives of law are explained	Decision made by staff who do not skate, play shinny, or work at City rinks
	- MPP's vote to agree to accept proposed bill for future debate	
	2nd reading – MPP's discussed advantages/ disadvantages of law - after debate, MPP's voted have sub-committee of MPP's study the bill in detail	- no notice of proposed policy of proposed law to people who use outdoor rinks
	Committee of MPP's study proposed Bill	- no invitation to hear from people who use City rinks to gain information or users' views
	Public hearings over 7 month period. Every section of the proposed law is reviewed. A vote is taken on each section and there can be amendments or changes.	- there have been no rink injuries at all involving helmet use in the City of Toronto.

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	<p>“Committee of MPP’s reported to legislature on their findings and recommendations. 3rd reading – Third and final debate. A majority of the MPP’s voted for the bill, which then became law..”</p>	
Time it took To pass law/ policy	5 years	Unknown
Effect of law/policy	<p>People under 18 must wear helmets when they ride bikes. Possible fine of \$ 75 to parents who knowingly allow children to ride without helmets.</p>	<p>Children under 6 and everyone who plays shinny must wear helmets. Rink workers are trained to apply policy and to fill out an incident report if a skater does not wish to wear a helmet.</p>
		<p>“At several rinks, people have been told that they cannot skate or play shinny if they choose not to wear a helmet. Lack of clarity about policy; can staff legally enforce a city-wide policy that was not passed by City Council?”</p>

