



# Creating Rowan's Law

DR. DAN CASS

CHAIR – ROWAN'S LAW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

# Rowan's Law Advisory Committee

- ▶ Coroner's inquest held into Rowan's death → 49 recommendations
- ▶ Coroner's inquest recommendations not binding; often not implemented
- ▶ Private member's bill introduced by MPP Lisa MacLeod
  - ▶ Rowan's Law Advisory Committee Act
- ▶ Became law June 9, 2016
  - ▶ Committee officially formed September 9, 2016
  - ▶ One-year mandate – report to be delivered by September 9, 2017
  - ▶ Automatically repealed December 9, 2017

# Mandate

- ▶ Review the 49 recommendations made by the inquest jury
- ▶ Review legislation, policies and best practices from other jurisdictions with respect to head injuries, including concussions
- ▶ Make recommendations on how to implement the jury recommendations, and how to prevent, mitigate and create awareness about head injuries in sport in Ontario
- ▶ Make any other recommendations that are advisable with respect to head injury prevention or treatment
- ▶ Within one year of beginning work, provide recommendations in a report to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

# Members

- ▶ Gordon Stringer – Rowan Stringer's Father
- ▶ Warren Hoshizaki – Director of Education, District School Board of Niagara
- ▶ Chris Markham – Executive Director and CEO, OPHEA
- ▶ Jennifer Knox – President, OFSAA
- ▶ Paul Hunter – Manager, Nat'l Coach Development, Rugby Canada
- ▶ Susan Kitchen – Executive Director, Coaches Association of Ontario
- ▶ Louise Logan - National Project Director, 2020 World Congress on Safety and Health at Work

# Members

- ▶ Eric Lindros – NHL Hall of Fame Inductee
- ▶ Rosie MacLennan – Olympic Gold Medalist – Trampoline, Team Canada
- ▶ Dr. Charles Tator – Canadian Concussion Centre, Toronto Western Hospital
- ▶ Elisabeth White – Nurse Practitioner, Neurosurgery Outreach, Sickkids
- ▶ Dr. Rosanna Salvaterra – Medical Officer of Health, Peterborough Public Health
- ▶ Kent Bassett-Spiers – CEO, Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation
- ▶ Dr. Dan Cass, Chair – Vice President, Medical, St. Joseph's Health Centre

# Legislation – Rowan's Law

- ▶ Mandatory concussion education
  - ▶ Athletes, parents/guardians, coaches, officials, educators
- ▶ Immediate removal from play
- ▶ Medical diagnosis (physician or nurse practitioner)
- ▶ Graduated return to learn/play
- ▶ Codes of conduct
- ▶ Data collection and analysis
- ▶ Annual “Rowan's Law Day”

# Surveillance

- ▶ Public reporting
- ▶ Collection of data re: suspected concussions
- ▶ Continue to monitor existing concussion policy until legislation enacted [PPM158]

# Prevention

- ▶ Codes of conduct with zero tolerance policies / mandatory expulsion
- ▶ Standards and accountability re: safe playing surfaces



# Detection

- ▶ At least one person in addition to coach(es) with training in concussion identification and management
- ▶ Annual training for all coaches in concussion identification and management

# Management

- ▶ Investment in electronic solution for data capture, sharing and reporting
  - ▶ Manual system in interim
- ▶ Special fee codes for
- ▶ Creation of “coach’s toolkit”

# Awareness

- ▶ Concussion education in all teacher education training
- ▶ Re-branding Ontario.ca Concussion Portal under “Rowan’s Law”
- ▶ Sustained public awareness campaign
- ▶ Annual concussion education in schools (all levels)
- ▶ Annual concussion awareness event
- ▶ Annual concussion education for all teachers / administrators
- ▶ Enhanced education for health professionals

# Additional Actions

- ▶ Federal government expand focus to school-based and non-school based amateur sport
- ▶ Work with First Nations leaders and stakeholders → implement same or similar actions
- ▶ Creation of Rowan's Law Concussion Partners Committee → maintain momentum

# Introduction of Rowan's Law

- ▶ Received Royal Assent on March 7, 2018
- ▶ Annual Rowan's Law Day September 26
- ▶ Amended the Education Act, re-issue P/PM 158: School Board Policies on Concussion

# Introduction of Rowan's Law

- ▶ Update to P/PM 158 is required to ensure consistency with Rowan's Law and relevant regulations
- ▶ Once revised, P/PM 158 will be re-issued as a binding policy under Rowan's Law
- ▶ Timing: To coincide with the coming into effect of Rowan's Law and relevant regulations

# Ministry of Education Next Steps

- ▶ Evaluation of P/PM 158 implementation
- ▶ Continued Engagement
  - ▶ EDU is exploring options to include concussion awareness in pre-service teacher education
  - ▶ EDU will collaborate with MTCS on a provincial concussion awareness campaign for Rowan's Law Day on September 26, 2018
  - ▶ EDU is supporting MTCS with establishing fields of play standards, coach's toolkits, etc.
  - ▶ EDU will continue to engage with school boards and education partners

