

Media Release

# Concussion Law supported by the Canadian Athletic Therapists Association

(Victoria, BC– November 29, 2011) – The Canadian Athletic Therapists Association (CATA) announced today that they will support in principle the Concussion in Youth Sport Safety Act presented in its first reading as a private members bill by Dr. Moira Stilwell.

The President of the CATA, Connie Klassen states that: “This is a great step at moving the safety of our youth athletes forward by requiring that organizations in high risk sports have guidelines to educate their coaches and parents regarding concussions” Ms. Klassen also states that: “Certified Athletic Therapists are the field experts and are the health practitioners that professional, university and national sport teams turn to for day to day recognition, review, and rehabilitation of their athletes”

When asked for her thoughts, Ms. Uniewski, the president of the British Columbia regional chapter for athletic therapy, the Athletic Therapists Association of BC, was also very supportive: “We recognize that concussion management is an issue particularly in youth sport and also know that having someone who is educated at the university level in the area of concussion recognition and review is invaluable for the protection of our youth.”

The Canadian Athletic Therapist Association (CATA) is an organization devoted to the health care of the physically active individual. A Certified Athletic Therapist must have fulfilled the academic and practical requirements for the Procedures for Certification. Certified members have successfully completed a comprehensive theory exam, and a subsequent oral/practical exam developed and administered by the certification board of the CATA. . The provision of on field immediate care of athletic injuries by a Certified Athletic Therapist includes: injury assessment, basic emergency life support, recognition and management of acute traumatic neurological dysfunction, provision of first aid, preparation for entrance into appropriate health care delivery systems, or, where appropriate, utilization of techniques facilitating a safe return to participation.

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