



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

NLMA provides a safe ride home for province's New Year's Babies

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St. John's, NL – Physicians in Newfoundland and Labrador have been providing safe rides home for newborns at hospitals around the province for 29 years. Again this year, the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA) will donate an infant car seat to the first baby born in 2016 in each of the province's 10 hospitals that perform routine deliveries.

NLMA President Dr. Jonathan Greenland said the intent of the NLMA's car seat program is to encourage all parents to use approved car seats for their children from the moment they leave hospital as newborns. To date, more than 330 car seats have been presented to families of newborns.

"The only safe way to keep small children protected in cars is with infant carriers, child seats and booster seats," said Dr. Greenland.

Motor vehicle collisions are the leading cause of death by preventable injury for Canadian children between the ages of one and 11 (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2009). When a child is restrained properly in a car seat or a booster seat that is appropriate to their height and weight, they are much less likely to suffer serious injury or die in the event of a crash. According to the Canadian Paediatric Society correctly used child seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71% and the risk of serious injury by 67%. The safest place for any child under 12 years of age is in the back seat of the vehicle, away from dangers like front-on collisions and front-seat airbags.

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