

ENHANCING CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY THROUGH LEGISLATIVE REFORM



CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

BACKGROUND

Motor vehicle collisions remain a leading cause of injury and death for children in Canada.

Inconsistent and outdated legislation leaves many children inadequately protected.

CPSAC partnered with Parachute and Child Safety Link to develop and share recommendations with transportation and health ministers in every jurisdiction in Canada.



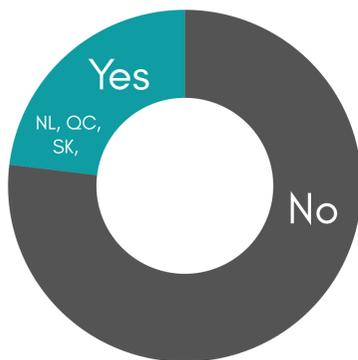
RECOMMENDATIONS

Robust evidence supports updating car seat, booster seat, and seat belt legislation, to align with current recommendations for age, weight, and height.

1. Require child passengers to be safely restrained in taxis and rideshare vehicles.
2. Provide clear legal options for the safe transportation for infants, children, and youth with disabilities or health care needs affecting transportation.
3. Require children to use a rear-facing car seat until at least 2 years old.
4. Require children to use a car seat with a 5-point harness until at least 18 kg (40 lb) AND 5 years old.
5. Require children to use a booster seat until they are at least 145 cm (4 ft 9 in) tall OR 12 years old.

PROVINCES/TERRITORIES MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS

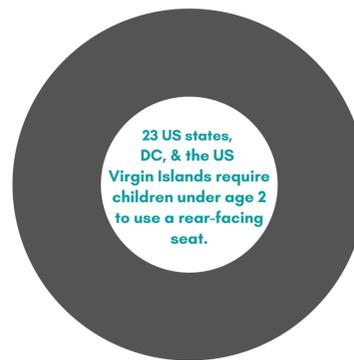
Child restraint required in taxis / rideshare vehicles



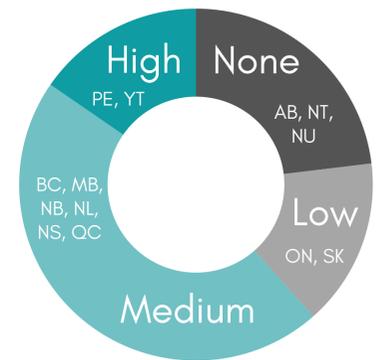
Legal options for adaptive seat for medical needs



Require rear facing until age 2



Alignment with booster seat law recommendations



TAKE ACTION FOR CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

- **Organize locally:** Collaborate with parents, caregivers, health care providers, advocates, and policymakers to improve child passenger safety in your community.
- **Educate yourself:** Learn about current best practices and where your region's laws fall short.
- **Advocate for improvements:** Families need child passenger safety education and support, in health care settings and in their communities.
- **Push for progress:** Contact decision-makers and demand stronger child passenger safety laws:
- **Send an email to your provincial or territorial government to advocate for updated laws.**



Select References:

- Child Passenger Safety Association of Canada. (2026). Recommendations for car seat, booster seat, and seat belt use by child passengers in taxis and ride-share vehicles. CPSAC: Ottawa, ON
- Transport Canada. (2020). Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations.
- Canadian Pediatric Society. (2020). Car seat safety.
- Parachute (2016). Unintentional Injury Trends for Canadian Children, June 2016. Toronto: Parachute.