



FOR RELEASE
May 14, 2013

Yukon government passes legislation on movable soccer goals

WHITEHORSE—An act to ensure the safe use of movable soccer goals at public recreational facilities was passed in the Yukon Legislative Assembly yesterday. The legislation allows the Government of Yukon to work with user and stakeholder groups to develop safe use standards that will apply to movable soccer goals.

"We are thankful to stakeholders in the community, whose input and support were instrumental in the development of the legislation," Education Minister Scott Kent said. "We will continue to work collaboratively with the various groups as we develop the regulations."

In October 2012, the members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly unanimously agreed to Motion 238 in response to the death of five-year-old Jaedyn Amann of Watson Lake. The motion called for the examination of legislative, regulatory and policy options to ensure that movable sports nets at public facilities meet appropriate standards that protect the safety of Yukon children. In addition, the chief coroner issued a report and recommendations.

"This bill will allow the Department of Education to bring forward regulations that will govern safety standards for soccer nets on public grounds and it's our hope that no family has to go through this kind of nightmare again," Watson Lake MLA Patti McLeod, who brought forward Motion 238, said. "I want everyone to know that the community is very appreciative of the actions being taken with the passage of this bill and I thank all members for their support."

The legislation and regulations address recommendations arising from the coroner's report and Motion 238, ensuring that appropriate safe use standards are followed by both the users of movable soccer goals and the public bodies responsible for operating public recreational facilities.

"In memory and in honour of Jaedyn Amann, the passage of this bill means that the Yukon government is able to work closely with user groups, stakeholders and interested parties to develop safety standards and requirements for the safe enjoyment of this important recreational activity," Kent added.

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News Release #13-128

