Dagmar ski lift mishaps irk MPP

Ontario Consumer and Commercial Relations Minister Bill Wrye says officials of his Ministry are willing to work with the Ontario Ski Resort Association and school board insurance officials to explore opportunities within the school system for education in the area of ski-lift safety.

Mr. Wrye was responding to a question in the Ontario Legislature, March 1, from MPP Norah Stoner.

Mrs. Stoner said two recent incidents involving ski lifts at the Dagmar Resort have raised concerns among parents and educators about safety.

"In one case, an 11-year-old girl was injured after falling from a chair-lift at Dagmar while on a school outing in January. Reports indicate the safety bar on the chair would not come down."

"In the second incident, a seven-year-old boy had to be held by another youth to keep from falling 40 to 50 feet from a chair-lift."

"Apparently, he was not loaded properly on the four-seat lift and began slipping out of the chair. When the lift stopped near the end of the run, the lad fell about 15 feet to the ground. Thankfully, the injuries to these children weren't serious," Mrs. Stoner said.

The Durham West MPP asked Mr. Wrye what action his Ministry is taking to investigate these incidents and what can be done to prevent similar occurences.

The Minister told the Legislature an inspector from the Elevating Devices Branch of the Consumer and Commercial Relations Ministry inspected the ski-lifts at Dagmar after the incidents and found them to be functional and in proper working order.

Mr. Wrye also pointed out that while the ski lifts are generally handled in accordance with the Canadian Standards Association's safety code that does not require bars, Ontario has established specific regulations to require safety bars.

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