

# Caling al Kiesh

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**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Use caution with drop-side cribs

## Health Canada tightens crib regulations

BY CHRIS TRABER ctraber@yrmg.com

If you are a parent or caregiver to an infant, Health Canada reminds you of the potential hazards related to drop-side cribs.

The federal agency is working in collaboration with a number of companies to voluntarily recall various models of drop-side cribs in light of recent health and safety hazard incidents.

There are a number of steps that consumers can take to ensure the safety of their youngsters, Health Canada said. Consult the consumer product recalls database found at www.hc-sc.gc.ca to verify if your crib model has been recalled and what action is recommended. You should also regularly verify the safety of your baby's crib.

Cribs should not be used if any parts are loose or missing or if there are any signs of damage. Cribs should also not be used if they can not be assembled properly as per the instructions.

Only parts obtained from the original manufacturer must be used for repairs. Broken crib parts must not be repaired with tape, wire or rope.

Health Canada regularly tests children's products on the Canadian market and will continue to monitor the marketplace to keep children safe. The agency is currently testing cribs available on the Canadian market to determine if they meet existing requirements and will continue to monitor complaints related to specific products.

All cribs, including drop-side models sold, advertised or imported into Canada must comply with the requirements of the Cribs and Cradles Regulations requirements.

In an effort to help make children's prod-

ucts available on the market even safer and to receive useful feedback, the department recently proposed new requirements for bassinets and changes to the existing regulations that will strengthen the requirements for all

Health Canada is also in discussions with Canadian and U.S. manufacturers, safety advocates and government officials regarding the overall safety of cribs.

You can keep informed by signing up for updates from the agency's database and their Twitter site via www.hc-sc.gc.ca on line.

#### **Contest for kids**

York Region elementary students and teachers could win fame and a small fortune by participating in Elmer the Safety Elephant's Be Prepared! poster contest.

Open to students in Grades 2 to 5 across Canada, the competition is presented by The Canada Safety Council and its partner, Public Safety Canada.

The contest theme is "If there is an emergency will you be prepared?"

Students are asked to create a poster that involves how they would help prepare their family in case of an emergency. The student can draw a poster of their escape route from each room in their home, what they would put in their emergency kit, or what they would do with their family pet in case of an emer-

The poster must have a safe message and show how they would help their family prepare for an emergency.

For a promotional poster, entry forms and teachers' notes and rules, visit www.elmer.ca

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