

**Statement**

**Saskatchewan Brain Injury Month**

Hon. R.W. Peterson

21 June 2011

Honourable Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to present this message from The Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, Patron of the Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association and former Clerk of the Senate.

The Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association and the Brain Injury Association of Canada designate June as National brain Injury Awareness Month. The importance of this initiative is to highlight awareness of the effects and causes of acquired brain injury across Canada.

In Canada, acquired brain injury (ABI) is the number one killer and disabler of people under the age of 44. More than 56,000 Canadians, 2200 in Saskatchewan, experience traumatic brain injury each year.

The traumatic effects of brain injury can disrupt one's daily life in a dramatic way but also through subtle, yet significant, changes to personality, abilities and mobility. The social, emotional and economic consequences of brain injury are devastating not only to the survivors themselves, but also to their family members. Everyone is affected when a loved one experiences a brain injury.

By designating June as the official awareness month, ***The Saskatchewan Brain Injury*** Association hopes to promote the prevention of brain injuries with information and educational programs.

Through the National Brain Injury Awareness Month, we hope to encourage people to play safely, drive defensively and choose wisely.

The Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association encourages all members of the Senate to support brain injury associations throughout Canada. With your help we can curb this epidemic.