

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Support a National Cycling Strategy

**From:** [Gord.Johns.A1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Gord.Johns.A1@parl.gc.ca) [mailto:[Gord.Johns.A1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Gord.Johns.A1@parl.gc.ca)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 29, 2018 9:55 AM

**To:** Office of the Mayor <[mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:mayor@hamilton.ca)>

**Subject:** Support a National Cycling Strategy

Greetings!

I'm writing to ask for your Municipality's support for my private Member's bill C-312, which will establish a National Cycling Strategy for Canada.

Cycling is a sustainable solution to many of the challenges Canada is facing, such as rising healthcare costs, gridlock and reducing GHG emissions. Riding a bike is low cost, eliminates pollution, and encourages healthy living. Many cycling advocates have endorsed my bill and agree with me that we need to do more to make Canada a cycling nation!

It is my hope that your board will pass a motion in support of bill C-312, and also call on your local Member of Parliament and ask them to support the bill.

Please find attached a toolkit (in both official languages) for your use and information.

Do not hesitate to contact my office with your questions and concerns.

Thank you,  
Gord Johns, MP

*Sent via  
Christine Ackermann  
Legislative Assistant to Gord Johns, MP  
613-992-0903 office  
613-240-0454 cell*

# Bill C312: An Act to Establish a National Cycling Strategy



## Toolkit for Municipalities

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Our country is facing many challenges including soaring healthcare and infrastructure costs, reducing GHG emissions, and traffic congestion. Cycling is a sustainable transportation solution. It can be done anywhere and in any weather. It's low cost, eliminates pollution, and encourages healthy living.

We need to do more to make Canada a cycling nation!

On Tuesday, 4 October 2016, Gord Johns, Member of Parliament for Courtenay-Alberni, introduced a private Member's bill to establish a National Cycling Strategy.

### Municipalities are asked to:

1. **Endorse Bill C312 by passing a motion at council** and emailing a copy to MP Gord Johns at [gord.johns@parl.gc.ca](mailto:gord.johns@parl.gc.ca)
2. **Call on the local area Member of Parliament** and ask them to pledge their support for the bill.

Information about the benefits of a National Cycling Strategy, sample motion, a listing of organizations and municipalities that have endorsed the bill, a sample letter, and sources for further information are included in the pages below.

For questions, discussion, or further information please contact Member of Parliament Gord Johns' Office. Email [gord.johns@parl.gc.ca](mailto:gord.johns@parl.gc.ca) or phone 1-844-620-9924.

More information can also be found at [www.gordjohns.ca](http://www.gordjohns.ca) or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/gordjohnscycling/>.

**Contents**

Municipalities are asked to:..... 1

Benefits of a National Cycling Strategy..... 3

    What will a National Cycling Strategy do for Canadians?..... 3

    Why is a National Cycling Strategy important? ..... 3

    Did you know?..... 3

Endorsements ..... 4

Sample Motion..... 5

Sample Letter ..... 6

Further Information ..... 7

    Text of Bill C312 ..... 7

    Online Petition..... 7

    Paper Petition..... 7

    Write to Your MP..... 7

    Social Media..... 7

Contacts ..... 8



## Benefits of a National Cycling Strategy

### What will a National Cycling Strategy do for Canadians?

- ✓ Commit the federal government to set clear targets for the expansion of cycling friendly infrastructure
- ✓ Encourage more Canadians to choose cycling as their mode of transportation
- ✓ Improve national safety standard measures, such as side guard rails for trucks
- ✓ Support cycle tourism in Canada
- ✓ Increase education for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists

### Why is a National Cycling Strategy important?

Our country is facing soaring healthcare and infrastructure costs, GHG emissions, and traffic congestion. The rising costs of housing, gas, and groceries are making life increasingly unaffordable for many Canadians. Implementing a national cycling strategy will help Canada address many of these challenges.

**Cycling is a sustainable transportation solution. It's low cost, environmentally friendly, and encourages healthy living!**

The UN estimates that more than half of the world's population lives in urban areas and that figure is on the rise. We can foster a cycling culture in Canada by making people feel safe, by providing infrastructure that supports them, and by helping potential cyclists feel confident about the rules of the road. This will take an organized effort from local, provincial and federal governments.

MP Gord Johns' Bill C-312 is a multi-faceted proposal, requiring the collaboration of all levels of government, to develop cycling options across the country. This legislation addresses the social, economic, and environmental issues facing Canada today and provides a national plan for cycling infrastructure and education.

### Did you know?

A study from Denmark shows that for every kilometer cycled, society enjoys a net profit of 23 cents; whereas for every kilometer driven by car we suffer a net loss of 16 cents.

In Canada, only 2 percent of children cycle to school and we do not do well when measured against other OECD countries with comparable climates. For example, in Germany, 15 percent of children cycle to school. In Sweden its 20 percent and it jumps to 50 percent in The Netherlands! Canada lags behind because these countries (*and many more*) have already implemented a National Cycling Strategy.

In BC, on average, 1400 cyclists are seriously injured and 9 people are killed in bicycle-vehicle collisions every year. According to Canadian Motor Vehicle Traffic Collision statistics, 35 cyclists died across Canada in 2014 alone. The number of cycling injuries and fatalities that occur every year is reason enough to act.

## Endorsements

"Vélo Canada Bikes strongly supports the development of a national cycling strategy as part of an active transportation approach. Our health, environment, and economy are riding on it. Getting the conditions right for a bike-friendly nation takes coordinated effort and strong leadership. Adopting an ambitious national cycling strategy and investing heavily in cycling infrastructure throughout Canada are key steps that combine to make cycling easier and more convenient for everyone. The experience of countries like Germany, the UK or Norway shows that it is effective and necessary. Ultimately, people everywhere want safer streets, clear laws, effective programs and good investments. Once people of all ages and abilities feel comfortable connecting to their community and their country from the seat of a bicycle, our job will be done. Until then, we have a tremendous amount of work to do."

~ *Anders Swanson, Chair, Canada Bikes*

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"Bike Ottawa feels the time is right for a National strategy to help provinces and cities across Canada address the challenge and leverage the opportunity of huge increases in people riding bicycles for transportation. A good strategy will focus on infrastructure, engineering and education standards, to help reduce emissions, congestion, road user conflicts, injuries and fatalities, all while increasing public health through sustainable and affordable transportation."

~ *Heather Shearer, President, Bike Ottawa*

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"Cycling is a wonderful way for Canadians to integrate healthy exercise into their day while protecting the environment. It's time for Federal leadership to step forward and lead by summarizing research, establishing guiding principles and coordinating the development of a national cycling strategy. We need to set targets -- one can be that every child possible in Canada learns to ride a bicycle.

Cycling tourism can be part of the strategy, and of course, safety needs attention as well.

National Health and Fitness Day partners with Canada Bikes towards the development of a National Cycling Strategy and invites you to participate in Bike Day in Canada on May 29, 2018."

~ *Senator Nancy Greene Raine, champion alpine skier voted as Canada's Female Athlete of the 20th Century.*

## Sample Motion

*THAT "City Council write to Gord Johns, Member of Parliament, the Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transportation, and the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment, encouraging the passage and implementation of Bill C-312, the National Cycling Strategy Act."*

*– City of Toronto, Ontario*

*"THAT the Village provide a letter of support to MP Gord Johns for Bill C-312: An Act to Establish a National Cycling Strategy."*

*– Village of Cumberland, British Columbia*



## Sample Letter

<<Address of Municipality>>

<<Date>>

<<Address of Member of Parliament>>

Dear <<Member of Parliament>>,

The (*Organization/Municipality*) recently passed a motion to endorse MP Gord Johns' Bill C312: 'An Act to Establish a National Cycling Strategy'.

In our community, <<Say a little bit about the actions being taken in your jurisdiction >>

We have found the development of cycling infrastructure to be invaluable to the health and safety of our community, but it is not a project we can continue to do on our own. It is imperative that the federal government work in collaboration with the province and municipalities to address the ongoing challenges of gridlock, pollution, and soaring health costs.

MP Gord Johns' Bill C312 delivers a solution to these challenges. We know that cycling can be done anywhere, in any weather, and is an option available to all Canadians regardless of age or ability. Cycling promotes healthy living, eliminates pollution, and is a low cost transportation solution. This legislation will bring all levels of governments together with cyclists, health advocates, educators, and business owners to build a comprehensive plan that will encourage and facilitate getting more Canadians on bicycles.

It is clear that a National Cycling Strategy will lead to a healthier society, more livable communities, safer cycling options, reduced congestion and significant savings for our healthcare system. Additionally, it will help promote Canada's unique landscape as a perfect draw for cycling tourism.

We need to do more to make Canada a cycling nation!

As such, we call on you, <<name of MP>> as the Member of Parliament for <<region>> to pledge your support for Bill C312 by voting in favor of the legislation, and encouraging your colleagues to do the same.

Thank you for your support in furthering active transportation in our region.

Sincerely,  
<<Municipality/Organization>>

cc: Gord Johns, MP

## Further Information

### Gord Johns Cycling Website

Find complete information at <http://gordjohns.ndp.ca//cycling>

### Text of Bill C312

The complete text of Bill C312: An Act to Establish a National Cycling Strategy.

### Online Petition

You will find an online petition for cycling on Gord John's website. Please help us spread the word by circulating this link.

### Paper Petition

Download, print and collect signatures on the attached paper petition. Circulate it in your neighbourhood, your community, among your friends and family. Once it's filled out, mail it (*postage free*) to MP Gord Johns, House of Commons, Ottawa ON, K1A 0A1.

### Write to Your MP

Write in support of MP Gord Johns' Bill C312: An Act to Establish a National Cycling Strategy and encourage your community members to do the same. MP Contact Information can be found here: <http://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>.

### Social Media

Share this page on Facebook and Twitter. Together, we can make Canada a cycling nation!  
<https://www.facebook.com/gordjohnscycling/>

## Contacts

Find your Member of Parliament [online](#).

Please write to your own MP as well as the following key parliamentarians in support of MP Gord Johns' Bill C312.

Write to any of these Parliamentarians (*postage-free*) at this address:

**House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A1**

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

Gord Johns, MP (Courtenay-Alberni)

The Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor  
Minister of Health

The Hon. Catherine McKenna  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Hon. Marc Garneau  
Minister of Transport



National Cycling Strategy  
PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA

WHEREAS:

- Cycling is one of the most sustainable methods of transportation, requiring fewer natural resources and producing less waste than any other transport alternative;
- The benefits of cycling should be made available to all Canadians, regardless of age, ability, gender, economic status or location;
- A national cycling strategy would promote research, help create infrastructure projects and establish a clear framework for investment in order to support and increase all types of cycling in Canada, including: commuter, tourism and recreational cycling;
- Cycling plays a positive role in healthy lifestyles and reduces healthcare spending as a result of increased physical activity and fitness;
- A national cycling strategy would enhance national safety standards including measures like mandatory side guards for trucks.
- Increased cycling would support Canada's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**We, the undersigned residents of Canada, call upon the House of Commons to establish a National Cycling Strategy.**

Name	Email	Address	Telephone	Signature

Please return completed petitions to: Gord Johns, MP // House of Commons // Ottawa, ON // K1A 0A1 (no stamp required, please use an envelope)