



## Colin Carrie MP Oshawa

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### Harper Government Takes Action to Protect Children from Dangerous Products

**OTTAWA, July 26 2011** – The Harper Government is taking action to protect children from dangerous products by proposing a new guideline regarding the amount of cadmium that may be found in children’s jewellery. Member of Parliament for Oshawa and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, Dr. Colin Carrie, spoke out on yesterday’s announcement.

“This is yet another example of the Government’s commitment to ensuring Canadian consumers are protected,” stated Carrie. “As a parent myself I know that I would not want my children exposed to potentially dangerous levels of metals such as cadmium.”

Cadmium is a heavy metal which is known to be highly toxic when ingested. Health Canada is proposing a guideline regarding total cadmium concentration in children’s jewellery of 130 parts per million (0.013%). It is believed this concentration would help protect children from cadmium poisoning following accidental ingestion, or prolonged licking and sucking, of these products. Stakeholders affected by this proposed guideline have until October 10, 2011 to provide comments on the proposal.

Health Canada encourages those involved in the import, manufacture or sale of children’s jewellery to take all reasonable steps to ensure that their products are safe for Canadian children. Health Canada will continue to monitor the marketplace and will take appropriate action when levels of cadmium in excess of the guideline are found in children’s jewellery. Health Canada may also seek the introduction of regulations limiting cadmium in children’s jewellery via the federal regulatory process.

For more information on the hazards associated with lead and cadmium in children’s jewellery, please read this [Health Canada Advisory](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2010/2010_07-eng.php) ( [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2010/2010\\_07-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2010/2010_07-eng.php) ).

“Canadians should be able to purchase products knowing that they are safe, and these new guidelines add another level of protection for consumers,” concluded Carrie.

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#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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