



Colin Carrie MP Oshawa

Government Announces New Measures to Support Families

Ottawa, Ontario October 6, 2011 – This week the Conservative Government announced new measures that will provide consumers with more information about energy drinks, to help ensure Canadian families make informed choices when it comes to these popular beverages. Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament for Oshawa and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health spoke out on this announcement.

“These measures are very important for Canadians,” stated Colin Carrie. “As a parent myself, I believe I should have access to as much information as possible to help make good decisions when it comes to what my family eats and drinks. These new measures are a step in the right direction.”

Until now, energy drinks were classified as a Natural Health Product (NHP), and, as a result, were not required to put a nutrition facts table on their products. After this change, most energy drinks will be classified in legal terms as a food product, just as they are in other countries like the United States and Europe. This means that nutritional fact tables will be on every can, and inspection powers will rest with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Under the new measures, Health Canada would also require:

- The limiting of the amount of caffeine that can be included in an energy drink to 180 mg in a single serving (equivalent to approximately what can be found in a medium coffee);
- The inclusion of a ingredient, nutrition and allergen declaration;
- That the types and levels of vitamins and minerals are within safe levels; and
- A warning statement advising not to mix with alcohol.

Energy drink producers would also be required to report to Health Canada any consumer health complaints associated with their products. They would also be required to submit to Health Canada more detailed information on consumption and sales of energy drinks. This information will help the Department monitor if additional safety requirements are needed.

Health Canada will be working with industry over the next six months to coordinate this transition. It is expected that products would meet the new requirements within the next 18 to 24 months.

“The Conservative Government has always made helping families one of their top priorities,” stated Colin Carrie. “By providing accurate information to parents, we believe they will be able to make the best decisions for their families.”

- 30 -

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Greg Howard, Office of Colin Carrie MP, 613-996-0411

Constituency office

57 Simcoe St S Unit 2B
Oshawa, ON L1H 4G4
Tel 905.440.4868
Fax 905.440.4872
Email carrie.c@parl.gc.ca

Ottawa office

410 Justice Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel 613.996.4756
Fax 613.992.1357
Web: colincarriemp.ca