



January 16, 2012

Unsafe at School Advocacy Group
Type1AdvocacyinBC@gmail.com

Dear Unsafe at School Advocacy Group,

Re: Ensuring appropriate accommodation of students with type 1 diabetes

The Canadian Diabetes Association commends the actions of your advocacy group to bring awareness to the needs of young children with diabetes in school and advocate for dedicated staff resources trained to address these needs.

Diabetes is a complex disease requiring ongoing monitoring and attention. In addition to testing blood glucose levels and administering insulin, students with diabetes must know the warning signs associated with hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia and know how to take prompt action in order to prevent an emergency. This regimen can be challenging, particularly for very young children.

Students of all ages with diabetes are often inadequately accommodated while attending school or school activities. Often, students with diabetes are required to test blood glucose levels and/or administer insulin unsupervised. Some students with diabetes are denied participation in school fieldtrips. Most schools refuse to administer glucagon in an emergency situation.

The Canadian Diabetes Association believes that in order for students with diabetes to be appropriately accommodated and protected while attending school or school activities, every school board should establish and maintain a diabetes policy comprised of strategies that reduce the risk of medical emergencies and ensure a student's individual medical needs are met. Therefore, schools should be equipped with appropriate resources in order to adequately accommodate their students with diabetes.

For more information about the Canadian Diabetes Association, please contact me or visit www.diabetes.ca/advocacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Connie Abram'.

Connie Abram
Executive Director, Western Canada