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NATIONAL HEALTH AND FITNESS DAY BILL

Third Reading of Bill S-211

Speech by:

The Honourable Larry W. Campbell

Thursday, June 12, 2014

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THIRD READING

Hon. Larry W. Campbell: Honourable senators, I rise today to speak to Bill S-211, a uniquely British Columbian bill. It was started by our friend John Weston over in the other place and was carried on here by Senator Nancy Greene Raine.

I don't know how we got so far afield on this, but I have to say that I personally feel it is unfortunate that your side has not been able to slip the chains of the other place like we have, marching forward into a bright new future of independence and hope.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Senator Munson: Liberation!

Senator Campbell: Moving along, if we were in the 1950s, we wouldn't have had to worry about this bill because our children would have been at parks. They would have been swimming; they would have joined the Boy Scouts, the Cubs, the Girl Guides — you name it. Unfortunately, in the word of “progress”, we have ended up with these things. Hopefully, this bill will allow us and allow the parents in Canada to realize that the position that we've put our children in is untenable, and if action is not taken, in the future we are going to be faced with obesity, diabetes and other

childhood diseases which we had never seen before but come about through lack of exercise.

Senator Cordy: And funding for national parks has been diminished.

Senator Campbell: Let's not go into national parks right now.

I sincerely believe that this is an issue that governments have to take up and that, most importantly, parents have to realize. At our age, we understand it because we were there. We were able to go anywhere we wanted. There was no fear. There wasn't a boogeyman hiding behind every tree. You got to ride your bike wherever you wanted. If you messed up anywhere within five blocks of where I grew up, you'd better be coughing it up and telling dad when you came back through the door because they were going to phone and he'd find out about it. That's the life that we would like, but we're never going to have it. So I support this bill; we support this bill.

I've sent letters to mayors across Canada to get them involved in the community because it has to be at that level to make this work. Let's pass this bill without further ado.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!
