

YOUNG ALUMNI INSIGHTS

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UNDERSTANDING AND IMPLEMENTING CONCUSSION POLICY IN ALBERTA

Emerging over the last decade, Return-to-Learn (RTL) protocols and cognitive recovery considerations are relative newcomers to concussion discourse. In 2014 Ontario issued a memorandum requiring school boards to develop and implement concussion policy including Return-to-Play (RTP) and Return-to-Learn protocols. In Alberta, there is no provincial policy or standardized concussion protocol in the education system.

Survey assessment of the current state of concussion policy in Calgary high schools indicates that in the absence of mandated policy, the current system in Alberta is a patchwork of RTP and RTL protocols and management.

The majority of respondents were unaware of components of their school's overall concussion policy, both RTL and RTP. In fact, many were unsure of whether such a policy existed. Future development of concussion policy would help to improve student and parent/guardian concussion education, staff concussion training, and individual school concussion protocol.

Krystle is currently working as a Research Associate in the Social Policy and Health division at The School of Public Policy.



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“The high incidence and morbidity of concussions in youth is a significant public health priority.”