

1. DEBATES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
(HANSARD)

HOUSE BLUES

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2011

Afternoon Sitting

HSE - 20110505 PM 002/dmm/1335

Statements  
(Standing Order 25B)

MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS

H. Bains: May is Motorcycle Awareness Month. To kick off Motorcycle Awareness Month today, the B.C. Coalition of Motorcyclists organized their 21st annual MLA Ride. This public awareness campaign started May 1 to convey the importance of being aware of motorcycle drivers who share our roads. [DRAFT TRANSCRIPT ONLY]

As the weather warms up, we are asking drivers to take extra caution and watch for motorcyclists. In urban areas crashes involving motorcycles often occur at intersections involving an oncoming vehicle. In rural areas there are more single-vehicle accidents where motorcyclists lose control and run off the road due to higher speeds. [DRAFT TRANSCRIPT ONLY]

When driving we must be extra cautious of our surroundings, especially when turning at intersections. Always be alert to see if there are motorcycles in traffic. Keep in mind that motorcycles are smaller than cars and trucks and more difficult to see. We must be extremely vigilant at this time of the year when motorcyclists are starting to join us on roads and highways. [DRAFT TRANSCRIPT ONLY]

We need to put ourselves in the same mindset as when our students go back to school in September, and we retrain ourselves to slow down in school zones. Motorcyclists and their associations are reminding themselves to remember to abide by the posted speed limits as they know that unsafe speed puts you at a greater risk. [DRAFT TRANSCRIPT ONLY]

Slow down and watch other traffic in intersections. Be sure that traffic sees you. Do not drive in their blind spots. Wear bright clothing and reflective material and keep your headlights on at all times. [DRAFT TRANSCRIPT ONLY]

Please join with me to thank the B.C. Coalition of Motorcyclists for organizing the MLA Ride to kick off Motorcycle Awareness Month. It certainly will bring awareness to drivers to be extra careful of their surroundings. It will save lives and reduce injuries to our motorcyclists in British Columbia. [DRAFT TRANSCRIPT ONLY]

E. Foster: I rise today to discuss a very important matter, which has just been brought up. May is motorcycle safety month in British Columbia, and as a longtime motorcycle owner and operator, certainly applaud the initiatives of the B.C. motorcycles coalition. They do a tremendous job in bringing awareness to the general public regarding motorcycle safety. [DRAFT TRANSCRIPT ONLY]

Motorcycles are growing in popularity around the world but perhaps especially so in B.C. According to ICBC, there are over 90,000 motorcycles registered in British Columbia, a number that continues to rise. This is why raising awareness of motorcycle safety is vitally important. Motorcyclists are seven times more likely to be killed in a crash than other road users. [DRAFT TRANSCRIPT ONLY]

Today many of my fellow members from both sides enjoyed a brief tour around downtown Victoria and James Bay. The British Columbia Coalition of Motorcyclists was good enough to come out each year and take everyone for a ride and let everybody experience what it's like to be on a motorcycle. This annual event gives MLAs and their staff a glimpse of the passions they have for their amazing pieces of machinery. [DRAFT TRANSCRIPT ONLY]

The BCCOM does great work advocating for motorcyclists' rights in our province. This is a membership-driven organization, and they have become instrumental in promotion of motorcycle safety, education and awareness in British Columbia. BCCOM has worked hard to raise the profile of the motorcycle community from simply driving in and between the cities all the way to racing and off-road riding. [DRAFT TRANSCRIPT ONLY]

Most important, however, is their excellent and ongoing work to promote safety. I hope all members of this assembly will join me in thanking the BCCOM for the great work they do for motorcycle enthusiasts and their families in British Columbia. [DRAFT TRANSCRIPT ONLY]