

November 16, 2009

Reference No. 381252

Ms. Adele Tompkins
Executive Director
BC Coalition of Motorcyclists
Unit No. 37 – 13320 – 116th Avenue
Surrey BC V3R 0R8

Dear Ms. Adele Tompkins:

In response to a growing concern for the safety of motorcycle riders in B.C., the Solicitor General requested the Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles (OSMV) of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) to undertake a review of motorcycle safety in B.C., including national/international best practices.

In 2008, the OSMV and the Chief Coroner collaborated to bring together key service delivery partners including the Police Services Division of PSSG, as well as police and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) to develop a comprehensive approach to improve motorcycle safety in B.C.

Based on the review of research, national/international best practices, and B.C.'s motorcycle crash statistics, a number of opportunities to improve motorcycle safety have been identified. These changes cover a broad range of topics from helmet requirements, licensing conditions, training and enforcement. The ministry is now embarking on external stakeholder consultations to with respect to the proposed changes. Your organization has been identified as a stakeholder in the field of motorcycle safety.

You will find attached to this letter a consultation document outlining changes proposed by the Province with accompanying rationale. I would like to invite you to review the project proposal and take the opportunity to meet with staff from OSMV to voice questions, concerns and/or feedback. To assist your review, we have included a series of questions at the end of the consultation document.

To reply via written submission, please send responses to:

Mr. Steve Martin
Superintendent of Motor Vehicles
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9254
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9J2

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To request a meeting or to discuss, please contact:

Mr. Corey Bowness, Senior Policy Advisor
E-mail: Corey.Bowness@gov.bc.ca
Ph: 250 356-8093
Fx: 250 356-5568

Thank you for taking the time to review the Province's proposals and share your perspective on this dynamic and important area of road safety.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Steve Martin", written in a cursive style.

Steve Martin
Superintendent

Attachments

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Consultation Document: MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

INTRODUCTION:

In response to a growing concern for the safety of motorcycle riders in B.C., the Solicitor General requested the Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles (OSMV) of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) to undertake a review of motorcycle safety in B.C., including national/international best practices.

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The focus of this consultation is related to the mandate of the Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. The OSMV is responsible for the development of road safety policies and the regulation of drivers to help ensure the safe and responsible operation of motor vehicles in British Columbia.

Most of the solutions to the problem discussed in this paper therefore align to the mandate of the ministry.

Improving road safety outcomes for motorcycle riders involves taking action on a number of areas including:

- Licensing Requirements:
- Training Requirements and Skill Development
- Helmet Standards

BACKGROUND:

All motorcyclists regardless of age are at increased risk on a motorcycle due to their lack of crash protection, the increased demands of riding a motorcycle versus driving a passenger vehicle, and the visibility issues associated for car drivers in both 'seeing' and 'processing' the approach of a motorcycle. Riding a motorcycle safely involves specific skills and mental alertness. Motorcycles are not as visible, are often not seen by other vehicle drivers, have only two wheels making contact with the road surface and when they crash their riders have little or no protection. These factors contribute to a greater frequency of crashes and those crashes have greater consequence.

Although motorcycle fatality rates per 10,000 licensed motorcycles have remained relatively stable, due to a sharp increase in the use of motorcycles, the overall number of fatalities has increased by 76 per cent in British Columbia over the past 9 years (see the chart below). A focus

