

Ref: 9931

Mr. Doug Hill
Williams Lake

Email: jsteciw@shaw.ca

cc: Linda.Beltrano@gov.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Hill:

Thank you for your email of January 19, 2006, regarding some of the recommendations put forward by the Coalition for Licensing and Registration of Off Road Vehicles in British Columbia (Coalition).

Eleven government agencies are now in the process of examining the Coalition's report and determining how its recommendations will affect British Columbians. Their analysis will include costs of the Coalition's recommendations, benefits to the Province of British Columbia of implementing their recommendations, as well as how other provinces in Canada and other countries are dealing with off road vehicle issues.

These government agencies will also be taking into consideration comments such as yours, in order to balance the needs of both the environment and the public. Therefore, I have forwarded your comments to Ms. Linda Beltrano, Director, Tourism Policy Section, Tourism Policy and Development Branch, who is working on this issue.

Thank you, again, for writing to share your views with me.

Yours truly,

Olga Ilich
Minister

From: doug h [mailto:jsteciw@shaw.ca]
Sent: Thu, January 19, 2006 8:47 PM
To: Minister, TSA TSA:EX
Subject: off-road vehicles

Dear Minister Ilich,

I understand that a proposal has been submitted to government regarding the introduction of new regulations to govern users of motorcycles, ATVs and snowmobiles when travelling on crown land. While I generally object to new regulations and red tape, I am particularly hostile towards the concept of an annual licence fee being charged. It appears that this part of the proposal is simply a money grab for use by special interest groups who want government funding. As well the annual licence fee will not address any of the public concerns that the proposal attempts to address.

Rural folks in northern and remote parts of the province would be penalized since they would not receive much benefit from the pool of money generated, which would likely be spent in more densely populated areas. Lacking local recreational amenities, people living in rural BC resort to self directed activities, such as touring on ATVs or snowmobiles, for their recreation. There only demand on government is access to crown land.

The proponents of new regulations would have us believe that there is no regulations concerning the use of off road vehicles in B.C. This is not true. There are access regulations aimed at off road vehicles promulgated by both the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Forests and Range under their respective legislation. The Ministry of Forests regulates the use of off road vehicles on forest roads. The Motor Vehicle act applies to ATVs, and anyone wishing to cross public roads in their vehicles must obtain a permit from the RCMP. A one time registration is required for snowmobiles, and motorcycles that are ridden off road and on public roads must be registered and licensed annually and can only be operated by a licensed operator when on public roads.

While some additional regulations may be tolerable, new annually licensing is not, and I urge you to rule out this part of the proposed new regulations to that people with off road vehicles can relax and enjoy their sport.

Doug Hill
Williams Lake