

January 15, 2007

The Honourable Stan Hagen
Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts
PO Box 9071, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2

Dear Minister

Re: Licensing and Registration of Off-Road Vehicles in British Columbia

As prominent members of British Columbia's nature-based tourism industry, we wish to express our great concern regarding the delays in implementing the recommendations for Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Licensing and Registration.

Collectively we are strong supporters of the Coalition for Licensing and Registration of Off-Road Vehicles in British Columbia. In December 2005 the Coalition submitted its final recommendations to the BC Government. We recently learned that there has been little movement on this file during the past 12 months and that the earliest date when appropriate legislation could be introduced would be during the Spring 2008 session of the BC Legislature if at all.

The ORV Recommendations have broad support from both commercial and public motorized and non-motorized interests across the province. The ORV Coalition's own broad make-up includes cattlemen, snowmobilers, naturalists and ATV riders, among others. Yet all these diverse groups are agreed on the absolute necessity and urgency of introducing licensing and registration for off-road vehicles in this province. We recognize that this initiative will occur at some cost to government, but we are certain that it is a necessary and long-overdue move to maintain user safety and visitor experience. If we do not act on this initiative, the cost to government will be much higher in the short- and long-term. It goes without saying that effective legislation in this area is very much in the public interest as well as the interest of sustainable tourism in BC.

We urge you and your colleagues to give this matter much greater priority than it has received to date. Please consider the urgency and necessity of this issue and move forward with the 47 recommendations, especially the first ten, which address the need for legislation, registration and licensing.

We look forward to meeting with you in the near future to discuss our concerns and a select group of sector representatives will be in contact with your office to arrange such a meeting.

Respectfully,

Michael Campbell, Council of Tourism Associations
Brian Gunn, Wilderness Tourism Association
Dave Butler, Helicat Canada
Dale Drown, Guide Outfitters Association of BC
Jim DeHart, BC River Outfitters Association
Brad Harrison, Backcountry Lodges of BC Association
Scott Barsby, BC Commercial Snowmobiling Outfitters Association
Peter Tucker, Association of Canadian Mountain Guides
Andrew Jones, Sea Kayak Guides Alliance of BC
Evan Loveless, Commercial Bear Viewing Association of BC

cc (con't)

Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Health
Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Agriculture and Lands
Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of State for Mining
Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Forests and Range
Honourable Kevin Falcon, Minister of Transportation
Honourable John Les, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Honourable Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Honourable Barry Penner, Minister of the Environment
Honourable Carol Taylor, Minister of Finance
Honourable Rick Thorpe, Minister of Small Business and Revenue
Kevin Krueger, MLA for Kamloops - North Thompson
Bruno Delesalle, Co-Chair ORV Coalition