



July 16, 2015

Sam MacLeod
Superintendent of Motor Vehicles
Ministry of Justice
Suite 4A - 940 Blanshard Street
Victoria BC V8W 3E6

Dear Sam MacLeod:

Re: Distracted Driving

I am writing to convey the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's support of Road Safety BC's efforts to address the issue of distracted driving, including your recent initiative to open public consultations around the penalties and sanctions associated with this dangerous driving behaviour.

Analysis of the last five years of police reported crash data on provincial highways confirms that distracted driving is a leading cause of incidents on the provincial highway network, accounting for 26 per cent of all serious crashes.

Highway safety is MOTI's highest priority, and all of our works have an element of enhancing or improving the safety of the travelling public. One of our initiatives in particular, aimed at inattentive motorists, has been the implementation of almost 7,000 kilometres of shoulder and centreline rumble strips since 2004. We are confident this work has reduced the occurrence of lane departure crashes, some of which can surely be attributed to distracted driving. In addition, MOTI maintains an annual Guardrail Program to install roadside barrier in locations around the province on a priority basis, to reduce the severity of road departure crashes.

Despite these efforts, crashes are still occurring due to distracted driving. Operating a vehicle can be a complex task under ideal circumstances, and any form of distraction can lead to a serious collision. MOTI will continue to work with our road safety partners including the police and RCMP in an effort to educate the public and ultimately change this unsafe behaviour, to ensure the safe and efficient movement of people and goods throughout British Columbia.

Yours truly,

Ed Miska
Acting Executive Director
Highways Operations