



Ref: 28395

November 10, 2009

Dear Chair and Directors:

I am pleased to announce a new management framework for managing off-road vehicles (ORVs) in British Columbia that will provide local governments with the ability to enact bylaws for the range of ORVs; it will also address rider safety, environmental protection, vehicle registration and the ability to cross public roads more conveniently.

Framework solution has been a long time in the making, and has involved discussions with many people and organizations to identify shared interests and workable approaches for moving forward. Over the years, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) has passed numerous resolutions requesting an improved ORV management regime. Thank you for your ongoing support; local government has played a key role in helping to improve ORV management in British Columbia. Key improvements to the ORV management framework include:

#### Registration and Licensing:

- Mandatory vehicle registration of all ORVs at sale and resale.
- A clearly visible licence plate or decal which will assist compliance and enforcement efforts in identifying irresponsible ORV riders and help track stolen ORVs.
- An expanded definition of ORVs will include all-terrain vehicles and dirt bikes; this will allow local government to enact bylaws for all ORVs.

#### Public Road Crossings:

- All ORV riders will be able to legally cross public roads and highways or portions of the right-of-way at designated locations with an optional annual vehicle licence and basic insurance. These crossings will connect our rural communities and support a world-class trail network. Riders who choose to stay on Crown land require only registration.

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## Safety:

- All ORV riders will be required to wear a helmet and use lights for low-visibility conditions. Seatbelts will be required to be worn, where installed by the manufacturer.
- Additional measures to better protect youth less than 16 years of age will include adult supervision, appropriately-sized machines for age and weight of drivers, and reduced speed limits.

## Environment:

- Improved muffler standards for ORVs will reduce noise disturbance to wildlife and recreationists; spark arrestors will reduce the risk of forest fires.
- British Columbia supports the Federal Government's proposed emission standards for ORVs under the Marine Spark-Ignition Engine and Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Emission Regulations; once approved, these standards will apply in British Columbia.

## Compliance and Enforcement:

- A provincial ORV compliance and enforcement strategy will be developed and will include an education component to help achieve voluntary compliance.

Federal and private lands are excluded.

Registration and licensing costs will be based on a user-pay approach, comparable to other small vehicles. The Province will work closely with the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) to implement service delivery within two years. This timeframe is needed to address matters such as ICBC's system upgrades and allow for a smooth business transition for front-line brokers.

We will continue to work with UBCM and local governments as we develop ORV regulations and policy. If you have questions or would like more information about next steps, please contact Ms. Vera Vukelich, Manager responsible for ORVs, by telephone at 250 356-0104, or by email to: [Vera.Vukelich@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Vera.Vukelich@gov.bc.ca).

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed By*

Kevin Krueger  
Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

pc: Minister Bill Bennett  
Minister of Community and Rural Development

**Nov 26 2009**