

Ministry of
Transportation

Office of the Minister

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Ministère des
Transports

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M2015-2414

June 10, 2015

His Worship Andy Letham
Mayor
City of Kawartha Lakes
26 Francis Street
PO Box 9000
Lindsay ON K9V 5R8

Dear Mayor Letham:

It is my pleasure to take this opportunity to share news affecting off-road vehicle (ORV) use in Ontario.

I recognize that a number of Ontarians enjoy the use of their ORVs as well as the economic and tourism benefits and increased mobility associated with on-road use of ORVs. As such, I am committed to a collaborative approach in our development of policy. This collaborative approach included successful in-person consultations in January 2015, with the participation of 30 different stakeholder groups representing enforcement, municipalities, public health, ORV industry members, agricultural groups and trail organizations.

Following that consultation, my ministry continued their engagement efforts by posting proposals to both the government's Regulatory and Environmental Registries for 45 days in order to seek additional feedback from the public. The period for public feedback ended on April 13, 2015, and we received almost 1,800 submissions.

I am pleased to announce, as a result of these efforts, that existing on-road access rules for "single-rider" ATVs will be extended to additional ORV types which meet specified voluntary off-highway industry standards. These changes will take effect on July 1, 2015, and will allow two-up all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), side-by-side ATVs and utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) on permitted provincial highways and municipal roads where bylaws permit their use.

Notably, there are no changes to the ORV municipal bylaw authority provided in the *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA). However, municipalities are encouraged to review existing bylaws to ensure they apply to these new ORV types. Additionally, these new ORV types require some safety rules unique to their configurations that do not currently apply to "single-rider" ATVs (e.g.; seat belt requirements, helmets and minimum age for passengers, etc.). While existing *Highway Traffic Act* offences will immediately apply, the focus of the next three months will be to educate the public about Ontario's road rules for these new ORV types and their additional safety requirements.

I assure you that my ministry recognizes the importance of a vibrant, sustainable and safe power sports sector in Ontario, and we support providing Ontarians with options to safely explore our vast province. To this end, I have asked ministry staff to continue to engage stakeholders and community partners in discussions, including the topic of extending on-road access to additional types of ORVs such as UTVs, to ensure Ontario remains amongst the top jurisdictions in road safety.

I thank you for your support and input on this initiative. My ministry looks forward to continue working with our municipal partners, as well as with enforcement, ORV and trail organizations, and interested road safety partners in communicating these changes during the public education period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steven Del Duca', is positioned above the printed name.

Steven Del Duca
Minister