



Provincial Towing Association (Ontario) Inc.

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Spring Newsletter to all members of PTAO

Well it was a heck of a winter and by all reports business was as brisk as ever. For obvious reasons there are many people interested on what is happening in the industry and how we are making out with the number of projects we are working on.

First, it saddens me to report a serious fatal accident took place this winter involving a tow truck (tilt-n-load) and a car. As the information came to us, the tow truck had just finished pulling a vehicle from the median when a car crashed into the rear of the truck. The motorist was killed and the driver of the tilt-n-load has been charged with criminal negligence causing death.

Surrounding this entire issue is the practice used for managing traffic while doing a job on the roads and highways by the towing industry. We got left out when it came to the Ontario “**Move-Over Laws**” and we are very active at Queens Park trying to get something done about it. We have a copy of the Ontario Traffic Manual covering “Temporary Conditions” MTO Book 7 in the office and we are consulting with the MTO and the Ministry of Labour to bring issues like this to an end. We are monitoring this case very closely and you can expect more information on this in the future. Please use extreme caution and be safe when working on the roads and highways.

Now, on to “Bill 87”: As you probably know by now, Bill 87 has passed its second reading and was supported by the majority of MPPs save and except for one. It is now in the hands of the Standing Committee who will review the entire bill and hear arguments for and against it. We are waiting patiently for this to happen. Keep your fingers crossed that we make it through this next difficult stage. We are still receiving donations to the “Bill 87 Legal Fund” for which we are very appreciative. If you haven’t yet donated, your financial support would be deeply appreciated.

In moving on, many of you are aware we are very active with the MTO “Rapid Clearance Committee” where we have been tabling and discussing issues such as payment for services under PL & PD and other insurance issues, police issues and of course “Highway Traffic Incident Management”. We continue to meet and

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will do so for the foreseeable future until the many items on our agenda are dealt with.

As for other initiatives we have moved the date of the Tow Show to July 21st through to the 25th this year and included our Annual Charity Golf Tournament and our AGM during the same week. All show activities will take place at the same hotel as the previous shows being the DoubleTree Plaza Hotel on Dixon Road in Toronto. This will reduce everyone's costs and make it much more convenient for our members to attend. There will be several training seminars available again this year and WreckMaster will be offering levels 2 – 5 at the show. Those interested in moving their company forward should get involved and attend these training seminars. Please check out our website at www.ptao.org for the complete schedule and more information. Be sure on attending this year and check out the latest in equipment and training courses.

We now have a large quantity of **PTAO Decals** available for your trucks and windows at very modest cost on a first come – first serve basis. We will be considering an advertising campaign in the future to draw customers to you in their time of need. You will need to identify yourself as a member and what easier way to do it. The 5.5” decals are \$3.50 and 8.5” decals \$5.50 each. Volume discounts are available.

In conclusion, I want everyone to think about where we were only a few short years ago and where we are now. We can honestly say the PTAO and the ORG have moved this industry forward further in the last few years then ever before in our history. Why you might ask and the answer I believe is quite simple. You now have a staffed full time office representing your needs. Both organizations are now recognized by the Ontario Government as representatives of the Towing Industry. We are winning but we must not let our guard down. Make no mistake about it, we need more members to continue the fight for you.

Best regards

Doug Nelson

“The Association for Towing Professionals”