

November 20, 2007

Bill 49 aims to improve traffic safety in Alberta

Edmonton...

The Alberta government has demonstrated its commitment to motorist safety on the province's roads with the introduction of Bill 49, the *Traffic Safety Amendment Act 2007*.

"Traffic safety is an important part of our commitment to Albertans, especially in light of our rapidly growing economy and the influx of people to this province," said Art Johnston, MLA Calgary-Hays, who introduced the legislation. "By combining education and action, this legislation fits perfectly with the other traffic safety initiatives outlined in Alberta's Traffic Safety Plan."

Components of Bill 49, the *Traffic Safety Amendment Act 2007* include the following.

- The legislation will define how an 'intersection safety device', also known as 'Speed on Green', will be used to gather evidence on red light and speeding infractions. With the adoption of Bill 49, this evidence can be introduced in court by affidavit.
- A liability cap will be added for the vehicle leasing and sale industry. The responsibility these parties have when a leased or loaned vehicle is in a collision is then limited.
- Photocopies of registrations for Class 4 commercial trailers will be allowed to be carried as an option to the original certificate, saving industry time and money.
- The process for court review of decisions of the Alberta Transportation Safety Board will be streamlined.
- The legislation will crack down on impaired driving by considering blood alcohol readings taken up to three hours after driving to be the same as the blood alcohol concentration at the time of driving.

"Bill 49 adds to the work my department is doing on Alberta's Traffic Safety Plan," said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "Together we have to ensure motorists in this province take safety seriously by slowing down, staying sober, paying attention and buckling up."

Improving traffic safety is part of Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to secure Alberta's future by building communities, greening our growth and creating opportunity.

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