

TO: UBCM Members

FROM: UBCM Secretariat

DATE: December 9, 2009

RE: **PROVINCE ANNOUNCES NEW MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR OFF ROAD VEHICLES (ORVs)**

On November 10, 2009 the Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, the Honourable Kevin Krueger announced that the Province was implementing, over a two-year period, a new management framework for dealing with ORVs. The new management framework will address rider safety, environmental protection, vehicle registration with better identification, and the ability to cross public roads in a more convenient manner. Regulations will be brought into place to address a number of issues.

Minister Krueger specifically noted UBCM in the news release as one of a number of associations and organizations that have called for regulation in this area. In fact, UBCM members have been requesting that the Province implement some form of licencing and registration of ATV/ORVs since 1993. Subsequent resolutions were endorsed again in 1996, 1999, 2002 and 2005.

Under the proposed new framework, all ORV riders using Crown land will require one-time registration with a licence plate for their machines, in addition to wearing helmets and using lights at night. Age-appropriate safety measures and adult supervision will be required for young riders.

All ORVs will require registration and licensing at time of sale and re-sale. New standards for mufflers will minimize the noise impact on wildlife and spark arrestors will reduce the risk of forest fires. Additional measures to connect communities and trail networks will mean licensed ORV riders will be able to cross public roads more conveniently with an annual vehicle licence and basic insurance.

Minister Krueger sent a letter to the UBCM President on November 10th with specific details of the announcement. Within the letter the Minister indicated: *"We will continue to work with UBCM as we develop ORV regulations and policy."* At their recent November 27th Executive meeting, the Executive indicated its support for the announcement and has sent a letter to the Minister conveying our thanks for addressing this long-standing UBCM resolution request.

The President has also confirmed that UBCM would be interested in working with the Minister to implement the new management framework.

At this point in time, UBCM would welcome any feedback or comments from the membership on the proposed new framework for dealing with ORVs. If you have comments please send them along to: Marie Crawford at: mcrawford@ubcm.ca.

For further details on the announcement (news release and related backgrounder) please go to:

www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2009TCA0012-000602.htm

Thank you in advance for your assistance.