



For Immediate Release
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Ministry of Competition, Science and Enterprise

MOTOR DEALER ACT AMENDMENT IMPROVES CONSUMER PROTECTION

VICTORIA – An amendment to the Motor Dealer Act introduced today will enhance high levels of consumer protection while stimulating a competitive market environment for the motor dealer industry, Minister of Competition, Science and Enterprise Rick Thorpe said.

“Today we are beginning the process to establish a self-governance model with a new Motor Dealers Council that will strengthen and improve protection for consumers,” said Thorpe.

Thorpe said that the self-governance model will result in government being able to focus its efforts on legislation and policy while allowing for the Council and industry to focus dedicated resources on investigation and enforcement. “The establishment of the Motor Dealer Council, and the appointments of respected British Columbians including Bob Stewart and George Morfitt to that Council, will dedicate resources to investigation, licensing and inspections, ensuring consumer protection.”

The Motor Dealers Standards Association of British Columbia and other stakeholders have endorsed the move.

“Greater responsibility for administration of the motor dealer rules and regulations will allow the motor dealer industry to be proactive in protecting consumers and enhancing professionalism in the industry,” said Bob Stewart, chair of the new Motor Dealer Council.

“Delegating authority outside government will mean there are dedicated resources focused on the investigation and enforcement of the motor dealer rules and regulations. We expect that these changes, which are in keeping with legislation in Alberta and Ontario, will result in better protection and greater customer confidence,” said Better Business Bureau president Sheila Charneski. “I’m pleased to see the Motor Dealer Customer Compensation Fund is being continued.”

“These changes will give greater credibility to the motor dealer industry throughout the province,” said George Morfitt, vice-chair of the Motor Dealer Council of British Columbia. “The delegated authority will be responsible for administering and enforcing the established requirements of government, ensuring a higher level of consumer protection for all British Columbians.”

The provincial government will continue to have responsibility for all policy and legislation governing the licensing of motor dealers including any future changes to the Motor Dealer Act. The modernized Motor Dealer Act was drafted after consultation with the industry and public earlier this year.

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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