



Resolution 2014-04

Damaged Licence Plates

Approved at the 63rd Annual General Meeting, June 25th, 2014

Preamble:

Damaged Ontario licence plates impact law enforcement activities and the public's ability to provide information to enforcement agencies related to on-going investigations. Damaged licence plates, where the alpha-numeric characters and licence plate jurisdiction are not clearly identifiable due to corrosion, unsustainable materials used, and or material failure, impact the ability of law enforcement agencies and public assistance.

WHEREAS the Ontario Highway Traffic Act includes many provisions in section 13 requiring vehicle owners and operators to maintain the licence plate visible and legible, at all times, and

WHEREAS the current configuration of the Ontario licence plate, private licence plates having blue text on a white background and commercial licence plates having black text on a white background has remained in effect since 1973, and

WHEREAS Ontario licence plate renewals do not include inspection of or reporting of damaged or otherwise illegible licence plates, and

WHEREAS an audit conducted by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation may result in the following benefits:

1. Review of Ontario licence plates in circulation, including but not limited to assessing the materials used, sustainability of materials used and common material failures and practical service life;
2. Improve the sustainability or service life of future Ontario licence plates;
3. Implement a licence plate replacement process which reduces the licence plate owners' efforts in obtaining replacements for damaged licence plates;
4. Provide incentives for licence plate owners to replace damaged licence plates;
5. Consideration of changing the licence plate character and background colours for new Ontario licence plates, thereby distinguishing new from current Ontario licence plates.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police supports the recommendation of an audit conducted by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police supports this proposal as it will increase the ability to enforce the provisions of Ontario legislation and the Criminal Code of Canada as well as the ability for the public to provide law enforcement agencies with information leading to the identity of persons associated with on-going investigations.