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NEWSLETTER

PROFESSIONALISM IN DRIVER TRAINING

To make changes, we need to become politically active.

Please read the following e-mails that have been sent out by **two** of the different driving association Presidents. The 4-point issue is a delicate subject, as we all believe in the role that driving instructors play. We are therefore not advocating that we should not be held to a higher standard, indeed we should be. However, it is the lack of being able to learn from our mistakes, correct them and then have the opportunity to develop as better driving instructors and drivers that are absent in the MTO regulation.



We all believe that we have to set the role for the community, but we believe that there should be an opportunity to learn from our mistakes.

As one of the signing stakeholders to this initiative, we at CPD understand the ramifications this regulation has for many of our professional driving instructors and we feel very strongly that our request provides both the protection the public needs from any of our professionals that show repeated violations but also will provide for a procedure that allows for a positive educational and fair alternative.

Please start to become politically active; it is the only way that we will be able to make changes.

Dez Miklós and G. Atwal have written the following communiqué to their members.

IN THIS EDITION:

Editorial – John LeFeuvre

Letter – G. Atwal

Letter – Dez Miklós

Editorial – Bill Pollock

Curriculum Training



Letter from G. Atwal (President, ADIAO)

Hello everyone,

We the stakeholders had our last meeting on May 19th 2011 and as yet, we have not had any response from the MTO about our 4-point issue. We were told that Minister is aware of the issue and will respond soon.

In my last communication, I stated that I have already had a meeting with one MPP and he has, on our behalf, written a very impressive letter to the Minister of Transportation urging her to accept our Action Plan to resolve this issue of the 4 points. Now we have had two more MPP's (one in North Bay and other in Hamilton) written to the Minister and urging her to accept our Action Plan to resolve this issue.

I am now urging everyone who cares about their own fate, and the potential to lose your license to teach both classroom and in-vehicle at 4 points, to go to your local MPP and have him or her write a letter to the Minister of Transportation urging her to accept our proposal. Our Association, along with all of the other major stakeholders believe that our proposal is very workable and fair for everyone.

We have done all of the research, prepared a workable solution, and obtained unanimous agreement from all of the key stakeholders within the Driver Training Industry. The Minister is aware of our proposal and we are now at the stage that requires only the Minister's approval to move forward.

This is an election year for Ontario. We have already seen the results in the Federal election and the same result is possible with the Provincial election. We would really like this issue resolved before the election. Otherwise, we shall have to live with the current, unacceptable regulation for a very long time.

We can make this an election issue if need be. However, we would like to give the MPPs a chance to listen to us and support us on this very important issue. It will be only fair to help those who help us.

Please book an appointment with your MPP today, print out our attached proposal and provide them with a copy when you meet.

G. Atwal
President
Allstate Driving Instructors' Association of Ontario (ADIAO)

Letter from Dez Miklós (President, ADIAO)

Driver Training Industry Stakeholders Group

Four Point Issue:

In a meeting held on Aug 26th, 2010, the Industry Stakeholders Group agreed unanimously, that there should be a better, alternative solution to the current regulation that would satisfy both the MTO and the Driver Training industry's concerns.

Entry: To Become a Driving Instructor:

A candidate should not have more than three (3) demerit points on his/her driving record. This will allow many more, otherwise well qualified, candidates to enter the Industry in a more timely manner.

Exit: To Revoke a Driving Instructor's Licence:

Automatic revocation would apply above six (6) demerit points

Intervention: Requirement for an Interview:

The threshold for intervention should be set at four (4) to six (6) demerit points. At this point, a Driving Instructor would get a letter from the MTO requiring an appearance in front of a Review Panel. The Panel would be able to take much more than just the demerit points into consideration, such as the offence(s) and the circumstances, before deciding upon the appropriate course of action. Recommendations could range from remediation to revocation. This would help to retain experienced, competent instructors who would otherwise be lost to the Industry without an opportunity for remediation.

Review Panel:

Preferably, the panel would comprise of a current MTO driver license reviewer, a member of the driver education industry and perhaps a member representing the general public

Training Required:

Based upon the outcome of the interview and the diagnostic tools available, the review panel may require specific training or may recommend suspension or cancellation the Instructor's License. Diagnostic tools are available, both cognitive and dynamic, to assist the Panel in determining the type of remediation required. Training may consist of DIC, DDC or, up to and including, a full Driving Instructor Course. Training can be provided through currently approved schools that provide this service to the general public. If a Driving Instructor chooses not to go through the remedial process then he/she will lose their licence to teach in-car and in-class.

Role of the Parties:

MTO would track driving instructor demerit points through its current monitoring system.
MTO may use the existing interview system in place for the general public or create a new panel.
The Driving Instructor would be responsible for all costs required in the remedial process.

We appreciate and thank the Minister for allowing the stakeholders to present an alternative to the current regulation.

Sincerely

(Put your name and company here when you are submitting this letter to your MPP, and do not forget to date this letter. Thank you.)

Dez Miklós

President

Driving Instructors' Golden Horseshoe Association (DIGHA)



Editorial – Bill Pollock

Many of you have been in touch with me recently regarding routine MTO audits of your schools. The KPMG auditors are sometimes demanding to see 'current' in-class certificates for your in-class instructors. In some cases course providers have received letters from the MTO demanding that the in-class certificates be brought immediately up to date, even though the instructors graduated from their in-class courses many years ago and currently hold an MTO BDI/BCI Instructor licence in good standing. To make matters worse, the certificate-issuing agency does not even have a revalidation course immediately available for instructors to attend. The issue is that certificates from some courses carry an expiry date and must be revalidated, with a fee, every 3 years.

Please be advised that the **Humber College In-class Instructor Course** conducted by CPD has been **evaluated by MTO senior management** and is deemed to be of sufficient quality that **revalidation is not required**. Instructors who graduate from other courses may be required to pay a fee and attend a 1 day session to renew their certificates every 3 years which makes those courses much more expensive in the long run. These expiry dates must be monitored and are problematic when the MTO auditors from KPMG show up since they want to see 'valid' in-class certificates for all staff. You may want to keep this in mind when you encourage your staff to take a classroom instructor course.

The **final installment** in the series of wmv (windows media video format) video clip files will be sent to all clients by e-mail during June. Remember that they do not represent a change to the curriculum but rather an enhancement. Feel free to ignore them and continue business as usual. My suggestion is that you give them a try and see how your students react. We are distributing these files as attachments to a series of e-mails sent to all clients at the rate of one each month for 4 months.

The wmv files were produced using the technologies Reg demonstrated at the November Conference at Stage West and include verbal narration as well as animations of the moving vehicles according to each case study's story line. Since the case studies are already approved (they must be played as-is and cannot be modified), these wmv files can be used just as you are doing presently and may add a bit of a 'wow factor' for your students. They will also be of great help to students with good verbal English language skills who may have problems with reading. As always these value added additions are made available to you free of charge.

Curriculum Training

We will be offering more CPD-Jetala Curriculum training sessions. All sessions are held at the CPD office at 2550 Matheson Blvd, Unit 122, Mississauga, L4W 4Z1.

Call to inquire about the next training session. – June 17th – 10:00 a.m.

This session is open to existing customers who would like assistance with their classroom training, and for any new instructors who will be teaching the CPD-Jetala Curriculum. Please call or email Helen Beaulieu if you are interested in attending this session. (905) 629-9978 or helen@canadianprodrivers.ca