



March 24, 2021

Brad Sperling, Chair  
Peace River Regional District  
1981 Alaska Avenue  
PO Box 810  
Dawson Creek BC V1G 4H8

Reference: 300816

Dear Chair Sperling:

**Re: Abandoned Vehicles on Alaska Highway**

Thank you for your email of January 27, 2021, regarding abandoned vehicles on the Alaska Highway. The December incident was tragic, and my thoughts are with the family of the motorist.

Safety is the ministry's highest priority, and that includes keeping B.C.'s highways unobstructed. If an abandoned vehicle is in any part of a lane or obstructing snow removal operations, it will be towed immediately. In this case, we have not confirmed if the vehicle was abandoned or if it experienced a mechanical breakdown. I am advised it was parked along the highway shoulder for less than 12 hours prior to the incident.

The ministry aims to strike a balance between clearing abandoned vehicles and towing parked cars. You can read an [overview of the removal process on our TranBC website](#).

I recognize you would like the ministry to revisit our legislation and reduce the time frame allotted for the removal of abandoned vehicles on highways from the existing 72 hours. You may be interested to know that, in 2004, the Highway Scenic Improvement Act was repealed, and its contents were [incorporated into the Transportation Act and regulations](#). The ministry regularly reviews its policies to ensure they remain current and appropriate, and I have shared your request with the staff of our Transportation Policy and Legislation branch.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Katherine Styba, our local District Manager. Ms. Styba can be reached at 778 576-1157 or by email at [Katherine.Styba@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Katherine.Styba@gov.bc.ca) and would be pleased to assist you.

.../2

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Rob Fleming  
Minister

Copy to: Katherine Styba, District Manager  
Peace District



January 27, 2021

The Honourable John Horgan  
Premier of BC  
Po Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

The Honourable Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
PO Box 9010 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Via Email: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

Via Email: [PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Premier and Minister Farnworth:

**RE: Abandoned Vehicles on Alaska Highway**

At its January 14, 2021 meeting, the Peace River Regional District Board discussed the imminent danger of vehicles being left abandoned on the Alaska Highway.

An accident that resulted in a fatality recently occurred in Northeast BC due to an abandoned vehicle being struck by a motorist on the Alaska Highway. In the interest of enhanced safety for motorists in the Region, the Board respectfully requests that Section 7 of the *Highway Scenic Improvement Act* be revisited to reduce the time frame allotted for the removal of abandoned vehicles on highways.

Thank you for your consideration of the Boards request.

Yours Sincerely,

*Bradley Sperling*

Brad Sperling  
Chair

c: Mr. Mike Bernier, South Peace MLA, Via Email: [Mike.Bernier.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Mike.Bernier.MLA@leg.bc.ca)  
Mr. Dan Davies, North Peace MLA, Via Email: [Dan.Davies.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Dan.Davies.MLA@leg.bc.ca)

diverse. vast. abundant.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

☒ Box 810, 1981 Alaska Ave, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8 Tel: (250) 784-3200 or (800) 670-7773 Fax: (250) 784-3201 Email: [prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca](mailto:prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca)  
☐ 9505 100 St, Fort St. John, BC V1J 4N4 Tel: (250) 785-8084 Fax: (250) 785-1125 Email: [prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca](mailto:prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca)