



March 28th, 2024

Dear PTAO Members,

We hope this message finds you well. The purpose of this communication is to provide you with crucial updates regarding Provincial Licensing and recent developments in our interactions with the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO).

On March 13th, 2024, the PTAO received responses to the questions raised during a meeting with TSSEA on January 23rd, 2024. It is evident that these responses, though delayed by nearly two months, are a direct result of our persistent efforts and additional meetings with the Ministry of Transportation, including engagements with Honorable Sarkaria and his support staff.

The written correspondence received in response to our inquiries was signed by Jennifer Elliott, Director of the Commercial Safety and Compliance Branch, on March 13, 2024. However, regrettably, the communication from TSSEA response was marred with ambiguity, misinformation, and a general lack of clarity. As you are aware, this pattern of inadequate communication from TSSEA has become unacceptable. It not only hinders progress but also raises significant legal concerns, as highlighted in a legal briefing document we submitted to the MTO.

In light of the unacceptable responses from TSSEA, the PTAO took the initiative to directly address our concerns with the Minister and his support staff. We alerted them to the inaccuracies and distortions in the information provided by Ms. Elliott and TSSEA. Fortunately, this proactive step prompted an immediate response from the Minister's office, suggesting a meeting between PTAO and the MTO.

Subsequently, on March 22nd, 2024, the PTAO was invited to a 1.5-hour meeting with MTO's Stakeholder Relations Manager and Policy Officer to the Office of Minister Prabmeet Sarkaria. The purpose of this meeting was to provide context and discuss the concerns previously raised with TSSEA, which were not adequately addressed in their responses. The meeting was productive, and there were indications of a continued dialogue, along with the possibility of convening an informal committee comprising subject matter experts within the Towing Industry to address identified issues.

While the meeting with the Minister's office was promising, we are still awaiting confirmation from the MTO regarding the scheduling of the next meeting, attendees, and timelines for finding solutions to the concerns raised by the towing industry. Furthermore, given the past delays experienced with TSSEA, the PTAO made it clear to the MTO that our Board had passed a motion to enter Phase I of our legal claim outlined to the MTO. This motion relates to their lack of due process and diligence in conducting a 'reasonable' industry review of the towing industry, crucial for a well-informed transition to Provincial Licensing.

We will continue to keep you updated as we receive further information. We encourage you to contribute financially in any way possible to ensure accountability from the MTO and facilitate the necessary changes, even if it means resorting to additional legal action. For more information on how to contribute, please contact info@ptao.org

Thank you for your unwavering support to PTAO. We remain committed to effecting the necessary changes for the betterment of Professional Tow Operators in Ontario.

Sincerely,

PTAO Board of Directors