

October 16, 2024

Good afternoon, PTAO Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I am excited to share some important updates from both the PTAO and the Towing Industry.

Firstly, the PTAO Board is actively working on a fantastic new initiative focused on operator training and skill enhancement, available exclusively to PTAO members. While we cannot reveal too much about this just yet, I can assure you that this opportunity has the potential to be a game-changer for both our association and the industry. We hope to share more information by the end of January—exciting times are ahead.

Government Updates

The board has heard our members' concerns and will continue to fight for our members' ability to hire and train employees that is more suitable to our industry, the ability to weigh and scale tow trucks, the misuse of Section 24 by the insurance industry, a correct and fair system for invoicing along with many other issues we are facing as an industry.

Our new Executive team has had a warm reception from various government departments as we continue to build strong relationships. We are engaged in high-level discussions with several groups from the Ontario Government, addressing some of the challenges our industry has faced over the past year. The progress we have seen is encouraging, and while confidentiality agreements limit what we can share right now, know that your interests are being strongly represented.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent survey. Your feedback is invaluable in helping guide our discussions with the government. For those who have not yet had the chance, please take a moment to complete it—your input helps us advocate for meaningful change in key areas. Expect more surveys in the near future, as they play a crucial role in ensuring that the PTAO can best serve you.

As your new President, I am both proud and excited to continue the great work of my predecessors, who have laid an incredibly strong foundation. I'm committed to further strengthening our government relations, and it's clear that our efforts are being recognized—our voices are being heard, and we have a seat at the table.

The PTAO is the largest and only towing association in Ontario that exclusively represents all towers across the province. As membership renewal season approaches, I encourage you to invite other towing professionals to join us. Our membership has grown significantly over the past seven years, representing the largest group of towing companies in Ontario. But together, we can do even more. The larger our membership, the stronger our voice with the government. If you're not satisfied with the current regulations, remember that things would be much more challenging without the advocacy and efforts of the PTAO.

One major milestone was our decision to hire a law firm to push for a judicial review of the TSSEA legislation. This bold step has compelled the government to be more accountable and open to collaboration with the towing industry. While it was not an easy legal decision to take, it has already started to shift how the government engages with us.



In Closing

I want to assure you that I am fully committed to advocating for the best interests of our industry. I will strive to keep you informed on a regular basis with monthly updates, whether the news is good, challenging, or neutral. We face exciting opportunities and challenges ahead, and I am confident that together, we can shape a positive future for our industry.

Thank you for your continued support.

Gary Vandenheuvel

President PTAO