

Mr. Nicolas CHAPUIS
Ambassador of France to Canada
42 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
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February 20th, 2017

Re: Reciprocal Exchange of Driver Licences between France and the Province of Alberta

Hello, Mr. CHAPUIS,

I am a joint citizen of France and Canada. After having spent 23 years living in several parts of Canada (most recently Alberta), and having just finished my university degree, I dream of moving to France, learning the language properly, and immersing myself in European culture. With several promising employment opportunities so far, my dream may come true after all.

However, as I was reading about the procedures involved in moving to France several months ago, I noticed a peculiarity: I am unable to exchange my Alberta motorcycle licence with France. After doing some research, it seems that the French government has agreements to accept motorcycle licences from over one hundred jurisdictions around the world outside of the EU/EEA, including several Canadian provinces (British Columbia, Newfound and Labrador, New Brunswick, and possibly Saskatchewan) and American states, but does not have an agreement in place to exchange such licences with Alberta.

I contacted the Alberta government about this peculiarity, and they stated that in 2008, when the current agreement between France and Alberta was signed, motorcycles were simply not included in the agreement, probably due to the different requirements and classes of motorcycle licences in France. Given that France exchanges licences of all types with more than half of the sovereign states on the planet, from Syria and Malawi to Myanmar and Brunei, this explanation didn't make much sense. In addition, because motorcycle licence exchanges can occur between France and several provinces/states with lesser or similar licensing requirements to Alberta, it seems that there is no obvious reason not to extend the current licence exchange agreement between France and Alberta to include motorcycle licences.

In an attempt to explain this to the authorities of Alberta and France, I have launched a website entirely dedicated to this issue, www.AlbertaFranceMotoLicence.info. This site contains information on all licence exchange agreements of both Alberta and France, specifics to the licences of Alberta and France, and some statistics on the number of licence holders who might be affected. I would greatly appreciate if you could forward this letter to the relevant official who coordinates agreements between provincial governments and the French government, or provide me with their contact information so that I may pursue this issue directly. Increased intergovernmental cooperation is always beneficial to residents of both jurisdictions, and this can reduce some of the burden placed on people moving between Alberta and France.

Kindest regards,



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