

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon  
Embassy of Canada in France  
35, avenue Montaigne  
75008 Paris  
France

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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

Dear Ambassador,

I am a joint citizen of Canada and France. After spending most of my life living in Ontario and Alberta, and having just finished my university degree, I dream of moving to France, learning the language to a greater extent than I can “out west” in Alberta, and exploring Europe. 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, motorcycle licences 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 relevant Canadian and French authorities, I have launched a website entirely dedicated to this issue, [www.AlbertaFranceMotoLicence.info](http://www.AlbertaFranceMotoLicence.info). This site contains information on all licence exchange agreements of both Alberta and France, specifics to the case of Alberta and France, and some statistics on the number of licence holders who might be affected.

I am aware that matters such as licensing are the responsibility of the provincial governments in Canada, but have been unable to get a clear answer of who arranges these sorts of agreements with the government of France. 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 highly beneficial to residents of both jurisdictions, and this can reduce some of the burden placed on people moving between the two jurisdictions.

Kindest regards,



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