

From: Sam Walker-Kierluk sam@albertafrancemotollicence.info
Subject: Exchange of Motorcycle Licenses between Alberta and France
Date: June 15, 2017 at 11:55 PM
To: lethbridge.west@assembly.ab.ca

SW

Dear Ms. Phillips,

A few weeks ago, on May 30th, I wrote an email to the Minister of Transportation about an issue I have raised with Alberta Transportation several times, regarding Alberta's driver licence exchange agreement with France (signed in 2008) and its exclusion of motorcycle licences. I did receive an automated message stating that I will receive a reply in the "near future" - a reply which has not yet come. Maybe I'm expecting too quick a reply, but I shall not apologise for my enthusiasm! :)

After sending that email, I stopped by your constituency office and had a lovely chat with Lisa Lambert, who informed me that such an issue, although it pertains to Transportation, can definitely be directed to my MLA. I've attached my email to The Honourable Brian Mason at the end of this message, if you feel so inclined as to look at it!

In many fewer words, the issue itself is this:

1. Alberta has signed licence exchange agreements with a number of foreign jurisdictions allowing for the reciprocal exchange of driver's licences, without testing and other "red tape", when residents relocate between the two jurisdictions.
2. Alberta's reciprocal exchange agreement with France covers only Class 5 licences (private passenger vehicles), and excludes Class 6 licences (motorcycles/mopeds). However, Alberta has signed reciprocal exchange agreements with other European jurisdictions that do include motorcycle licences - jurisdictions with identical licence requirements and classifications to France.
3. France will exchange motorcycle licences with the majority of other jurisdictions on the planet, including several Canadian provinces, yet an agreement with Alberta that includes motorcycle licences hasn't been created.

It's funny to think that I could move to Newfoundland (which has a reciprocal agreement regarding motorcycle licences with France) and rent a house for a week to get a local driver's licence, and then get my French licence if I move to France based on the Newfoundland licence that I originally tested for Alberta - but I can't just swap my Alberta licence.

Action taken so far by me:

- December 2016 and January 2017: I had unfruitful correspondence with Alberta Transportation directly.
- January 2017: I launched a website, www.AlbertaFranceMotoLicence.info, that gathers a large amount of data on this topic.
- February 2017: I sent letters to the ambassadors of Canada and France in each other's country, as the exchanges are facilitated by the embassies - with no responses.
- April 2017: I filed FOIP requests with Alberta Transportation, eventually receiving the actual signed agreements between Alberta and France, Switzerland, Australia, and Northern Island, as well as some correspondence regarding the ratification of these agreements.
- May 2017: I emailed the Minister of Transportation, and CC'd the Executive Director of Driver Programs, Terry Wallace - who had been CC'd by the government on a response to a previous inquiry of mine back in January. I've received no response.
- June 2017: This email... yay!!

The last letter to the government to which I actually received a response, dated January 27, stated that "**As time allows, we intend to re-evaluate France's licence class equivalencies and licence qualification requirements. Intergovernmental agreements are necessarily complex in nature and process, so it is not possible to say when an amendment, if deemed feasible by both jurisdictions, would be completed.**" In the FOIP package I received, it seemed that the entire agreement with Switzerland was drafted, reviewed, and signed into effect in eight months, so surely, in the six months I've been asking about this issue, someone in the Alberta government could take a few minutes to look into modifying an existing agreement, especially where the intergovernmental infrastructure is already set up as a result of the current agreement, and because I have done a lot of the research myself, [as posted online for all to see!](#)

So, with all that said, I wish to reiterate my request that the Government of Alberta examine the feasibility of expanding the exchange agreement between Alberta and France to include Class 6 licences. If the government is unwilling to take action in regards to this request, I would appreciate any sort of explanation as to why these licences are exchanged with other European jurisdictions, but not France.

I would appreciate anything you can do in regard to bringing this to the attention of the relevant groups. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Kindest regards,
Sam Walker-Kierluk
www.AlbertaFranceMotoLicence.info
sam@albertafrancemotollicence.info
403-332-3396

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sam Walker-Kierluk <sam@albertafrancemotollicence.info>
Subject: Exchange of Motorcycle Licenses between Alberta and France
Date: May 30, 2017 at 9:27:16 PM MDT
To: transportation.minister@gov.ab.ca

To: transportation.minister@gov.ab.ca

Cc: Terry Wallace <Terry.Wallace@gov.ab.ca>

To: The Honourable Brian Mason, Minister of Transportation

Cc: Terry Wallace, Executive Director - Driver Programs

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you regarding an issue that may never otherwise be brought up in your time in office, a small matter of intergovernmental cooperation that can save some motorists a large amount of inconvenience - the exchange of driver's licences between Alberta and foreign jurisdictions.

Between December and January, I was in contact with Alberta Transportation regarding the reciprocal licence exchange agreement signed by the governments of Alberta and France that facilitates the exchange of driver's licences between these jurisdictions. This particular agreement allows holders of Alberta Class 5 licences to exchange their Alberta licences for the equivalent French licences upon relocating to France, and vice versa. However, it does not allow for the exchange of motorcycle licences, despite France and Alberta both exchanging motorcycle licences with a number of other jurisdictions with both similar and differing licensing systems for motorcycles.

When I first wrote to Alberta Transportation regarding how the agreement doesn't include Class 6 licences, I received the following reply:

"This has happened in large part because an Alberta Class 6 licence holder can operate any size and type of motorcycle. Many jurisdictions limit riders by type, size and engine displacement and adhere to a progressive motorcycle licensing structure. Because those licence categories do not correspond to Alberta classifications, it is not possible to reciprocate licences in that class."

However, this is entirely contradicted by the following:

- Alberta has entered into exchange agreements with Switzerland (signed in 2001) and Northern Ireland (signed in 2012), which have near-identical licence structures to France in regards to motorcycles, and these agreements *do* facilitate the exchange of motorcycle licences between the relevant jurisdictions
- France has signed exchange agreements that include motorcycle licenses with several Canadian provinces and American states, most of which have a one-size-fits-all motorcycle licence similar to Alberta's, that include motorcycle licences.

When I sent an email back to Alberta Transportation with this information, I received a rather generic reply along the lines of 'perhaps when we have time we can look into this.' Although I understand that this is not a pressing issue, I also know that it will probably never be an "important" enough issue to be examined unless someone chooses to *make* the time to look into it.

I am passionately crusading for the licence exchange agreement with France to be amended to include motorcycle licences. I have set up an entire website, www.AlbertaFranceMotoLicence.info, to gather and publish data related to this cause. This web site contains information on all reciprocal agreements signed by France and Alberta and what licence classes are involved, as well as all correspondence I have had with any government regarding this issue, and copies of some of the exchange agreements that I have received via a FOIP request to the Government of Alberta. If you want to see the actions that an overly-enthusiastic Alberta resident and taxpayer is willing to take in an attempt to see some action or response from a government, I highly encourage you to take a look at it and consider the arguments made.

In summary, given that:

1. Alberta exchanges motorcycle licences with several jurisdictions using progressive licensing schemes almost identical to France's, including Switzerland, Northern Ireland, and all states in Australia, and that
2. The Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, and (possibly) Saskatchewan have signed reciprocal licensing agreements with France that include motorcycle licences,

I am reiterating my request that Government of Alberta take action to reach out to the relevant French authorities in an effort to examine the feasibility of such an amendment to the reciprocal licence exchange agreement.

Sincerely,

Sam Walker-Kierluk

Web site: www.AlbertaFranceMotoLicence.info

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