

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

SW

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
Email: sam@albertafrancemotollicence.info
Phone: 403-332-3396