



Honourable Claude Richmond
Minister Employment and Income Assistance
101-275 Lansdowne St.
Kamloops BC V2C 1X8

January 23, 2006

Dear Minister Richmond,

Good Day, my name is Ken McClelland. I represent the Greater Kamloops Motorcycle Association (GKMA) and hold the position of Land-Use Chair with that organization. I have been a part of The Coalition for Licensing and Registration of ORVs for over three years, and had a part in formulating the Final Recommendations for the Licensing, Registration and Management of ORVs report, which I believe was presented to Government last week. The report can also be viewed at the Coalition's Updates and Documents page at www.orvcoalitionbc.org. As I am sure you have seen in reading the report, many issues of safety, education and environmental protection have been comprehensively addressed in this document. As a club, we continually promote safe and environmentally responsible riding practices. This is why I was particularly disturbed, in light of the fact that the proposed legislative recommendations are now in government's hands, to learn of a recent closure to motorized access in the Lundbom Lake area east of Merritt, and a proposed closure, except for on existing main roads, in the California Bighorn Sheep Wildlife Management Area in MU 3-29.

These closures have been undertaken, in my opinion, without due process and/or consultation vis-à-vis land-use planning with all of the stakeholders involved, and particularly with the GKMA. I find this extremely disappointing, as we have endeavoured in the past to maintain a good and open relationship with the various government offices and ministries that we deal with. Motorized off-road recreation is a growing sport and business in British Columbia, and contributes large amounts of money to the provincial coffers in terms of taxes generated through PST on purchase of new machines, safety equipment and accessories, fuel taxes for the machines themselves and transport vehicles, overnight accommodation purchased, restaurant meals, and the list goes on. It is difficult to imagine this industry being able to continue to grow if lack of access to public land inhibits this growth. On behalf of the GKMA, I would respectfully ask that you refrain from any further access restrictions or closures on all public land until the ORV legislation is in place, and proper consultation and due process can be followed with regard to use of public land by motorized off-road enthusiasts and tourists. I would further ask that you rescind the closure order in the Lundbom Lake area, and delay taking any action in MU 3-29 regarding restricted access until such time as consultation with all stakeholders, including motorized recreationists has taken place.

Yours truly,

Ken McClelland
Greater Kamloops Motorcycle Association
www.gkma.ca

cc: Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier Province of British Columbia
Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Forests and Range
Honourable Barry Penner, Minister of Environment

Honourable Olga Ilich, Minister for Tourism, Sports and the Arts
Kevin Kreuger, MLA Kamloops-N. Thompson
Doug Jury, Regional Wildlife Biologist
Ernie Maynard, Integrated Land Management Bureau
Min. of Forests and Range, Kamloops District Office
Min. of Environment, Kamloops District Office.