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March 24, 2025

Rupinder Birk

Advisor, Municipal Transition & Integration

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

City of Brampton, ON

Rupinder.Birk@brampton.ca

Dear Rupinder,

Thank you so much for bringing to the attention of the ONDP that Brampton Council members have unanimously passed a motion, entitled, "Safe Drivers – Safer Roads" that supports the recommendations of the 2023 Auditor General's Report on what is needed to improve driving standards and therefore safety on our roads and highways.

It is critically important that we all work together to ensure that fraudulent training and testing is eliminated and that all people licensed to drive in Ontario have been thoroughly trained and legitimately tested.

You may be aware that several of my colleagues from Northern Ontario ridings and I have been campaigning to regulate the training and testing of commercial transport drivers. The number of catastrophic accidents with transport drivers in Northern Ontario is staggering. Highways 11 & 17 are also our main streets in Northern Ontario and local people no longer feel safe driving on these highways. In fact, highway safety was the number one issue raised by constituents during the recent provincial election – above health care!

While not all accidents are the fault of transport truck drivers, we know that many new drivers have not received the training they need to drive safely on our northern highways. As with the fraud taking place regarding G licenses, there is also fraud taking place in the licensing of commercial drivers. In addition, many new commercial drivers are pressed into declaring themselves as "self-employed" (known as "Driver Inc.>"). What this means is that they, and their families, have no protection at all if they are injured or killed on the job. These drivers also experience wage theft and are put under pressure to drive poorly maintained vehicles in poor weather conditions. It is an appalling situation that particularly affects new drivers hoping to achieve permanent residency in Canada.

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My colleagues and I argue that commercial drivers need to be supported and not blamed for the current situation, that, instead, laws around the training, testing and licensing of commercial drivers need to be enforced, and commercial driving schools need to be regulated and monitored by licensed inspectors from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. I had the opportunity to meet with some drivers from the group “Justice for Truck Drivers” and know that many are also paying for training that they never receive.

I have attached the document that my colleagues and I circulated during the election and plan on bringing forward in the provincial legislature along with a document prepared by Truckers for Safer Highways. I'm also including links to the CBC Marketplace piece on fraud in the training, testing and licensing of commercial truck drivers; the Auditor General's Report on Commercial Driving; the Insurance Bureau of Canada report and the Justice for Truck Drivers webpage.

These are issues you many already know about. If not, I hope you will find our document and the links informative.

At the moment, there are still trucking companies allowed to train, test and license their own drivers – a clear conflict of interest. Thus, one of our key recommendations is to return the testing and licensing of commercial drivers to inspectors certified by the Ministry of Transportation.

I hope you will consider adding the voice of Brampton City Council to our call for both the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to take up their responsibilities and ensure that all new commercial drivers receive the training they need in order to drive safely and, further, that no one is licensed who cannot legitimately pass all the requirements to receive a commercial driver's license.

Thank you again for your support to eliminate the fraudulent training, testing and licensing of drivers receiving G licenses. I hope that, together, we can make the safety, and survival of all people using our roads and highways a top government priority.

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All the best,

Lise Vaugeois
MPP Thunder Bay-Superior North

France Gelinas
MPP, Nickle Belt

Guy Bourgoïn
MPP, Mushkegowuk—James
Bay

John Vanthof
MPP, Timiskaming-Cochrane

Jamie West
MPP, Sudbury

Attached:

- 1) Northern Highways Safety Plan, March 2025
- 2) Commercial Vehicle Driver Safety Improvement Proposal, Truckers for Safer Highways, 2022.
- 3) Auditor General Report from 2019: “Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement”

Links:

[Article:] Hidden camera, internal memo reveal how unqualified truck drivers are getting onto Canada's roads: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/marketplace/bribes-trucking-industry-hidden-camera-1.7348425>

[Video:] Hidden cameras reveal how unqualified truckers are getting on our roads | Marketplace: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVSs8dSbS-Y&t=800s>

April 9, 2024, Insurance Bureau of Canada Report: [Urgent Action Needed for Commercial Truck Driver Training](#)

“Are You Driver Inc? Pay Attention – You’re Being Set Up”: <https://cantruck.ca/are-you-driver-inc-pay-attention-youre-being-set-up/>

Justice for Truck Drivers: <https://www.justice4workers.org/truck>

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