



INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Mayor and Members General Issues Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE
COMMITTEE DATE: November 21, 2012	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Ministry of Transportation (MTO) Decision Re: Commercial Use of Two-Way Radios (PW12086) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)	
SUBMITTED BY: Gerry Davis, CMA General Manager Public Works Department	PREPARED BY: Lyle Stedman Manager, Central Fleet 905-546-2424 ext.4593
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

At the June 13, 2012 City Council Meeting, Item 5.14, Correspondence from Carl Zehr, Mayor, City of Kitchener, respecting the Ministry of Transportation’s (MTO) decision regarding the commercial use of two-way radios was received.

This item was referred to the City Manager, Fire Chief and General Manager of Public Works to report back to the General Issues Committee.

Information:

Since the correspondence from the Mayor of Kitchener was received by Council, the MTO has granted a 5 year extension on the use of handheld devices for Municipal Employees.

On September 6, 2012, Ontario Regulation 253/12 ammended as such that the Council clause of “January 1, 2013” was repeated from sections 11(1) and 11(2). The amendment further revokes the entire exemption to January 1, 2018.

Please see the attached update (Appendix A) from the Ontario Good Roads Association. Staff will continue to monitor this legislation for any changes that would impact the City’s Fleet and Operations.

If you require additional information please contact Lyle Stedman, Manager Central Fleet at 905-546-2424 ext.4593.



September 19, 2012

Five Year Extension Granted on the Use of Handheld Devices for Municipal Employees

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation recently released Ontario Regulation 253/12, its regulatory amendments to the legislation governing the use of handheld communications devices while driving.

Under the old legislation, those engaged in public works activities were provided a blanket exemption that was to expire on January 1, 2013. During the consultation period to develop the new regulation, OGRA had asked the Minister of Transportation to grant a permanent exemption for public works staff members that use such devices during the course of their jobs.

In the amendments that were released on September 6, the sunset clause of "January 1, 2013" was repealed from Sections 11(1) and 11(2). The amendment goes further and revokes the entire clause and the exemption on January 1, 2018. This in effect provides municipal public works officials with a further five years exemption to the ban on the use of handheld devices while driving.

To read the full Regulation please refer to: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_090366_e.htm

The mandate of the Ontario Good Roads Association is to represent the infrastructure interests of municipalities through advocacy, consultation, training and the delivery of identified services.

For more information, please visit ogra.org.