

MAY 02 2016

Ministry of
Transportation

Office of the Minister

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Ministère des
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**APR 28 2016**

M2016-1192

His Worship Fred Eisenberger, Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for bringing council's request to amend the *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA) to include a requirement for vehicles to slow down and provide a right-of-way to waste/recycling collection vehicles to my attention.

The Ministry of Transportation encourages all drivers to slow down and move over when passing a potential hazard along a roadway, especially vehicles with activated flashing lights or hazard lights. This message is a part of our ongoing public education activities.

In 2015, Ontario extended the "Slow Down, Move Over" law to include tow trucks stopped at roadside with their flashing amber lights activated. These requirements reflect the need of emergency first responders and tow truck operators to provide assistance in high-risk, high-speed and often uncontrolled roadside situations.

Waste/recycling collection vehicles are not included in this law and there is currently no provision under the HTA to require traffic to yield the right of way to these vehicles. Although waste/recycling collection personnel generally operate at roadside, their duties are generally conducted on safer, more predictable low-speed residential roadways. Further, waste collection workers, unlike tow truck operators and emergency personnel, are typically insulated from passing traffic by their vehicle. For these reasons, we are not looking into additional amendments to the HTA with regards to waste/recycling collection vehicles. However, we will continue to monitor this issue and respond accordingly.

Thank you again for bringing this issue to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Del Duca'.

Steven Del Duca
Minister