



September 26, 2019

Hon. Caroline Mulroney
Ministry of Transportation
5th Floor
77 Wellesley St W,
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Hon. Caroline Mulroney

Re: Slow Down Move Over Provisions

On behalf of our organizations, who represent municipalities and businesses across Ontario involved in the delivery of goods and services, we are writing to you regarding ensuring our workers are provided the same protection as other roadside workers.

Roadside workers such as waste collection workers have one of the most dangerous jobs. Over 3,000 curb-side collection vehicles are on the road every day carrying over 4,500 private and public workers who ensure our communities are clean and safe. Many of these workers are on and off or in and out of collection trucks potentially hundreds of times a day, with cars and trucks passing them. Careless driving by motorists puts waste and recycling collectors at risk every day.

Unfortunately, unlike other roadside workers (police, paramedics, police, and tow truck drivers), waste collection workers and snowplow operators are not currently provided the same protections.¹ We are advocating for change. Currently, twenty-one US states provide these protections to waste collection workers including:

Michigan, 2009
Alabama, 2013
Wisconsin, 2013
West Virginia, 2014
Florida, 2014
Georgia, 2015
Indiana, 2015

North Carolina, 2015
New Jersey, 2016
New York, 2016
Virginia, 2016
Illinois, 2017
Iowa, 2017
Kentucky, 2017

Missouri, 2017
Maryland, 2018
Nebraska, 2018
Pennsylvania, 2018
Ohio, 2018

In 2014, British Columbia changed to simplify its Slow Down Move Over law to make it safer for all roadside workers including waste/recycling collection vehicles. The law was impactful as it provided a simpler and more effective message for all drivers and afforded the same protection to all road and roadside workers in their workplace (see Figure 1.0).

¹ See section 159 of [Ontario's Highway Traffic Act, 1990](#).



Figure 1.0 – BC Slow Down & Move Over Campaign

Slow Down, Move Over provisions are being adopted as a best practice across North America and we hope can be adopted here as well. All roadside workers should be protected equally under the law.

We hope you or your staff might have time to discuss this important issue with us in more detail.

Sincerely,

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 President, Ontario Chapter of SWANA

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