

**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
BRIEFING NOTE**

**Cliff #: 212976
September 21, 2012**

I. PREPARED FOR: Information

II. ISSUE: Excessive Speeding and Vehicle Seizure

III. BACKGROUND:

In British Columbia, driving offences – including excessive speed and vehicle impoundment – fall under the Ministry of Justice. Tougher laws came into effect on September 20, 2010, making streets and highways safer by going after those who drive significantly over the posted speed limit, and getting them off the road.

Excessive speed is speed in excess of 40 kilometres per hour over the posted speed limit. If charged and convicted of excessive speeding, drivers face fines ranging from \$368 to \$483. Excessive speeding also results in the immediate impoundment of the vehicle. In addition to fines, vehicle owners are responsible for towing and storage costs. Vehicles are impounded for:

- 7 days for a first offence (towing and storage costs are at least \$210)
- 30 days for a second offence within a two-year period (towing and storage costs are approximately \$700)
- 60 days for any subsequent offences within two years (towing and storage costs are over \$1200)

Vehicles used in commission of a crime, for example during street racing, are also at risk of seizure and forfeiture.

IV. DISCUSSION:

Since the introduction of the new laws regarding excessive speed, related injuries and fatalities have been significantly reduced. Between October 2010 and September 2011, excessive speed related injuries and fatalities have decreased by 48 percent compared to the previous five year average for the same period. Since these provisions came into force over 11,600 vehicles have been impounded.

V. CONSULTATIONS:

The Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice, or Steve Martin, Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, would be happy to answer any further questions you may have on excessive speeding in British Columbia.

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