

Good Day Minister Estabrooks;

My name is Lawrence Aucoin, I am a Quadriplegic who uses a power wheelchair and have been for 25 years, I live in Cole Harbour, Dartmouth, NS., actually Premier Dexter is my MLA. I presently work for the Department of National Defence and have been for a total of 26 years. The reason for my e-mail is that I am asking if you could help me. As The Minister of Transportation I would ask for you and your colleagues to get the word out about the abuse of Accessible Parking and also to make some drastically needed changes and updates to today's standards, the present standards regarding this matter are obsolete. There are many more Disabled Individuals driving independently in today's society then ever before.

I have been dealing with this frustrating and degrading issue for 25 years. I have met with the Mayor, I have written to Politicians and have had no success. You know the trick, pass the buck, no one wants to take responsibility.

When the NDP Government was not the Governing Power, I was told that my ideas were great, but that I must go through the Government in power. So I guess the ball is in your Court Mr. Minister.

A few things that must be changed for example, would be the fine. I sincerely think that the fine should be \$1000.00, vice \$300.00 or \$400.00 right off the get go. Hit people in the pocket book where it hurts, I am sure this would make individuals think twice where they park if the fine was \$1000.00 and 2 demerit points. Also the Province of Nova Scotia has to step up to the plate and get some awareness programs started. We must get it into peoples heads that they are abusing the parking for those that really require it.

Some individuals actually really think that they absolutely deserve and require the permit. Why people cannot just park another 20 feet away, when you have the great pleasure of being able to walk. At any given moment anyone could end up in a wheelchair, your

entire life changed forever with the blink of an eye. What difference does it make, if you are quite able to walk, an extra 20 feet, 25 seconds at most. Please, do not get me wrong, I do not mean everyone, just the ones without a conscience. Most of these individuals that are abusing the system seem to have no trouble walking around the Mall.

Also these "ACCESSIBLE HANGERS" you see on vehicle mirrors, their size must be increased to include a photograph and also 2" letters at the bottom for the expiry date so it can be seen from the curb. If the individual does not match up with the plate number, your in violation. I would have to say that when your vehicle permit expires, so should your accessible permit, unless you have a "Permanent Disability", which requires you to need a Parking Permit. Also the person's parking permit must be confirmed by a Medical Doctor

People do not realize that there are vehicles out there that MUST park in these spots because they have ramps that require the space to exit their vehicles. It is not just an inconvenience, it is also very inconsiderate, and this is the point that we must get across to people. "These individuals need a wake up call". They must be made aware of what they are actually doing. We desperately need an awareness campaign started, sooner rather than later.

I guess what I am saying is that I am at a stand still and I am asking for your assistance in getting the message out there, and help me to get something done about this abuse.

Perhaps you could get the Premiere, yourself and the Mayor, and perhaps someone like Myself together and start an awareness group. We must all work together to find a resolution to this ongoing, very serious problem. We need someone to commit to changing this abuse, answers are required, not excuses, as in the past.

I have met with Mayor Peter Kelley. I was told by him that he was going to take a look at some of my suggestions and set me up a meeting with the Transportation Minister. That was approximately back in May of 2008. I know everyone has their priorities, but do not make suggestions and forget about them. Please review the attachments to this e-mail for references.

Also Mr. Minister, I might ask, why do Doctor's, I am not saying all, but some, hand out "THESE PASSES" like they are cookies? I know for a fact that people are using passes that are not their own. There are stolen ones out there, some passes being used belong to "Deceased Individuals", and there are many many more expired passes out there. The Province seems to take no accountability to revoke these passes. There must be some accountability.

Anyway, I'll stop my rambling for now, I am sure you can see the point I want to get across and I am asking for your assistance. If you believe you can help me get some answers, Please get in touch with the undersigned. It will be greatly appreciated. There is no time like the present. I look forward to your response.

Thanking you in advance.

J.L. Aucoin-