



Dear Alberta Towing Industry member:

Stakeholders of the Alberta Towing Industry have decided that our industry needs to have representation and an association. Western Canada Automotive Business Association (WCABA) was formed as an effective organization that has the tools and political influence in the professional representation of its member sectors of the automotive industry. One in seven people work in the automotive industry in Canada and yet there currently is no representation for the small businesses that drive the automotive sector in Western Canada. The towing and recovery industry is one of the cornerstone businesses that interacts with all consumers of its products through vehicle owners, police agencies, insurance companies, repair facilities and salvage facilitators.

In April and May of 2012 information and membership drive meetings were held with the collision industry, where over 50 shops attended sessions held in Calgary and Edmonton. These meetings were hosted by the WCABA's President & CEO Dale Finch who will also be attending the "pro-towing rodeo" in Red Deer August 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 2012. Please see the attached flyer for full details and information.

The towing membership drive committee is asking for your support by committing to join the WCABA. You will be supporting our planned lobbying and advocacy efforts aimed at improving and professionalizing the towing and recovery industry in Alberta and throughout Western Canada. Our industry must have a strong collective voice with our Provincial and Federal governments, Police agencies, insurance companies, roadside assistance facilitators and all other industry stakeholders.

The primary focus of the initial efforts of the new association will address two key areas that require immediate attention and will be of significant importance particularly to all Alberta industry members.

The first issue surrounds the archaic operations of the Alberta Vehicle Disposal Program that has not seen any increase whatsoever in its current rate structure for almost 30 years. The last application of any increase in the rates associated to this program occurred in 1983! It is unbelievable and certainly unacceptable that the Alberta government has ignored this program and allowed towing industry members to be the vehicular garbage collectors throughout the province. There has not been any concern for fair compensation to the service providers that keep communities and highways clear of derelict and abandoned vehicles for almost three decades. It is our intent to lobby for immediate action in bringing this program into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with rates increased to where they should be today and not just a token increase.

The second issue that will be pursued relates to Police agency rotation policies. We believe that our efforts on behalf of our membership will be able to convince the RCMP and other municipal forces utilizing rotations that there must be a limit to the number of participants. Recently in several communities, rotations that should be limited to two participants have accelerated to four or more despite call volumes that cannot financially sustain this many operations. These additions occur without consideration for long time service providers who have invested heavily in their respective communities. These providers are not considered when a new provider with no commitment to a community is placed on a rotation and then merely "drops by" when on call and then departs until their next scheduled assignment.

Our membership committee is looking for your support by joining today and helping to make a difference and improve our industry. Please share this information with any other peer towing associates who you believe would like to see change.

A membership application form is attached. For any further information or comments, please contact Dale Finch.

Yours truly,

**Western Canada Automotive Business Association**  
Dale Finch  
President & CEO

**Towing Membership Drive Committee (Alberta)**  
Garry Leach