

Dear.....,

Through this e-mail I want to draw your kind attention to the new taxi by-laws, a few of which can be lethal for the already gasping cab business. Noteworthy, these by-laws are going to be enforced w.e.f. July 1st, 2012.

1. 12 HOURS WORK SHIFT:- In new taxi by-laws, a cab driver can work only for 12 hours in 24 hours. The need for this new by-laws is told fatigue and tiredness which makes a cab driver unsafe on the road. Now the question is, how many hours a cab driver really drives during this 12 hour shift...?. It may be 2-3 hours or can be 4-5 hours maximum on a busy day. Other than that he sleeps in the cab, talks to his peers or he takes lunch or dinner. Why that time is calculated as his working time.? A cab driver has to wait 1-2 hours for his next call... What about that waiting time. He is not doing anything, just sitting idle. On the other hand a bus driver is allowed to drive 13 hours in his/her work shift of 16 hours. Moreover a bus driver is driving 30-40 people also. naturally more fatigue due to constant concentration. So who is more exhausted 4-5 hours cab driver or 13 hour bus driver. The answer is very clear.

80% of the cab drivers are first generation immigrants who are well qualified and educated but somehow they have to end up being cab drivers. We are not begging on the street neither we are stealing somebody's piece of bread. If we work long hours, we are not doing it for fun. We have to do that for our living. We lose our family time also while working long hours and we never complain to anybody for that whether the business is good or dead..

So if public safety is the major concern, we should find other ways out. As per books, 6 hours sleep is good enough for a healthy human being. So in my opinion a driver should be logged off 6 hours at least in 24 hours. The rest 18 hours it should be left for him whether he works 8 hours, 12 hours or 18 hours. This is the alternate for the so called safety concerns

2. DISCLOSE YOUR INCOME TO CITY HALL : Every resident of Canada is bound to disclose his income to Revenue of Canada and anybody else than that doesn't have a right to ask how much money a cab driver is making which the new by-law is forcing the cab drivers to do. This is same thing like you ask a variety store owner how much money he is making. Can the city hall ask him also..??? The answer is NO. Is it constitutional asking individuals how much money one is making.?

3. 6 DEMERIT POINTS : In new by-law a cab driver will lose his taxi licence if he accumulates 6 demerit points within a period of 3 years. So in this case also we should comply with the Ontario Highway Traffic act only.

So I request you to look into this alarming issue which is going to affect at least 800 families in London On. I am quite positive that you will take some corrective measures and help amending this by-laws which smells nothing else than an act of racism based on skin colour as I have already said, more than 80% cab drivers are first generation immigrants.

Regards

Dharam Veer Saini