



## **LATE BREAKING NEWS – LATE BREAKING NEWS**

### **FEDERAL COMPETITION BUREAU CALLS FOR RELAXING TAXI RULES IN FACE OF COMPETITION**

In a report released on Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Federal Competition Bureau Commissioner John Pecman said local and provincial governments should remove restrictions on the number of taxi licenses they grant to drivers, allow people anywhere to hail rides from the curb and offer surge pricing, which Uber now uses to charge more at times when there is greater demand. In essence, the Federal Competition Bureau recommends letting taxi companies operate more like Uber.

A report prepared by Ottawa's local authorities in October 2015 indicates Canadians spent almost \$1.2 billion on taxis last year and found Uber prices average around 36% less than a comparable cab fare.

The Bureau says that has created an uneven playing field, and that cities and provinces should balance the scales by easing rules on taxis rather than looking to increase regulations.

Last month, Toronto Mayor John Tory said that while Uber is operating outside legislation, it would be impractical to devote the police and bylaw attention necessary to shut it down entirely.

Toronto has joined other cities including Ottawa in issuing fines against Uber drivers. Montreal has done the same and in some cases gone further, seizing vehicles. In Calgary, Uber has suspended its service after a judge approved a temporary injunction against it last week.

The bureau also recommended that, among other changes, regulators let additional qualified drivers work for hire and provide incentives for drivers to operate accessible vehicles in areas where consumers are underserved.

City of Toronto spokesman Mark Sruga said in an email that the city will include the Competition Bureau's report in its ongoing review of its taxi and transportation policies, which is expected to produce an initial report in the spring of 2016.

## PROPOSED PROVINCIAL BILL FURTHER THREATENS TAXI INDUSTRY

In yet another threat to the interests of licensed taxi operators, past Ontario Progressive Conservative leader Tim Hudak's Private Member's Bill the "Opportunity In The Sharing Economy Act" (Bill 131) swiftly passed second reading at Queen's Park on October 29, 2015, and will now move on to Committee.

Sparking an intense debate in the legislature, MPP Hudak reasoned that one quarter of Canadians are living pay cheque to pay cheque, and, "Here's something we can do right away to empower people to create a little bit more money from assets they already own - their home, their vehicle, and their parking space."

"In talking to stakeholders, mayors, industry leaders, they're saying these technology improvements are upon us and consumers are reacting. Unfortunately, government is not reacting" he stated. "So, why not? Let's get going and empower Ontarians to make a little bit more money through services like Uber. It also gives you more choice as a consumer."

His words echoed those of both Toronto Mayor John Tory, and Ontario Finance Minister Charles Sousa, who spoke to the sharing economy in his Fall Economic Statement on November 25, deeming it, "an emerging sector that has immense potential to foster economic growth and innovation."

While Private Member's Bills seldom become law, this Bill's apparent fast-tracking, and the prospect of yet another politician weighing in on this critical issue with only a surface knowledge of the taxi industry, has to be a cause for concern.

## TAXI DRIVERS STAGE A HUNGER STRIKE TO PROTEST UBER

During the first days of December a handful of taxi drivers staged a hunger strike in Nathan Phillips Square in an attempt to encourage the City of Toronto to seek another court injunction to stop UberX from operating in the city.

The Taxi Action protesters set up a tent in the square and were quickly met by security and warned that the tent violates a City bylaw. The drivers responded by asking why the city doesn't enforce its bylaws against Uber.

Toronto Police officers soon arrived and urged the drivers to remove the tent. The drivers then questioned why the police haven't cracked down on UberX. A few hours later police officers removed the tent, but the protest continued.

"We are here today because we feel betrayed by the City of Toronto - we follow all the rules and regulations that they have imposed upon us and we find a newcomer coming into town and pretending to be something else other than a taxi business," Taxi Action spokesman Asafo Addai told the Sun. "It is wrong." Asked why they're resorting to a hunger strike, Addai said they're willing to do anything necessary to be heard.

A banner with a quote from Mayor John Tory that read, "Uber is operating outside the law," was unfurled and waved at the mayor's office windows.

Mayor Tory said the city is reviewing its rules for taxis and is working to regulate Uber "as quickly as possible." "I would just hope that maybe these drivers would reconsider the hunger strike because it's not going to allow us to speed up the process of developing regulations."

## REMINDER: WINTER TIRES TO BE INSTALLED BY DECEMBER 1, 2015



All City of Toronto taxicabs are required to have four (4) snow tires installed from December 1<sup>st</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup> each year, in accordance with Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545-144.4.

Snow tires must display the pictograph (left) to comply with the bylaw.

## A.T.T.C.L. SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD

### DRIVER PROFILE



**ARIF ALI**

### Congratulations to Arif Ali!

#### Recipient of the A.T.T.C.L. Service Excellence Award!

A.T.T.C.L. recently received a letter complimenting Mr. Arif Ali for providing service above and beyond his role as a taxicab driver.

On a late November evening Arif was transporting a male passenger to meet his friend. Upon arrival at the destination Arif noticed the friend's vehicle had a flat tire. Neither the passenger nor his friend knew how to change a tire, so without haste, Arif proceeded to change the tire on their behalf. The passenger was so impressed with Arif for his act of kindness and professionalism that he was compelled to write a letter to A.T.T.C.L. complimenting Arif for helping them out.

Arif, originally from Pakistan, immigrated to Canada in 2000 and has been driving with Co-op Cabs for the past 15 years. He has been providing superior customer service throughout his taxi driving career while driving a Co-op Cab.

Arif will receive \$50 from A.T.T.C.L. for his exemplary customer service. Well done!



## A.T.T.C.L. HAS TWO WHEEL-TRANS CONTRACTS (WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE AND SEDAN SERVICES)

### TO OBTAIN YOUR WHEEL-TRANS CERTIFICATION:

- Drivers must successfully complete the one-day A.T.T.C.L. Driver Orientation and Special Needs Training Course. The course also covers Wheel-Trans policies and procedures.
- Upon successful completion of the course, drivers will be issued a Wheel-Trans Training Certificate, and will then be eligible to receive Wheel-Trans orders.
- Drivers are required to provide a vulnerable sector police check.
- Drivers can register for the course at either the Co-op or Crown offices.
- Classes are held at 130 Rivalda Rd., A.T.T.C.L. training room every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday:
- Class times: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



**A.T.T.C.L. MANAGEMENT AND STAFF WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THE VERY BEST WISHES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON TO ALL DRIVERS, OWNERS, SHAREHOLDERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS: JANUARY – MARCH 2016



Jan. 8 - 10: Canada's Bridal Show 2016 - North Building	Feb. 12 - 21: Canadian International Auto Show 2016 - North and South Buildings	Mar. 20: Comedy Club - North Building
Jan. 9 - 10: The Toronto Franchise Expo - North Building	Feb. 26: 13 <sup>th</sup> Annual IEP Conference - North Building	Mar. 30 - 31: Global Talent Summit - International Talent Management Conference & Exhibition - South Building
Jan. 21 - 24: Interior Design Show - North Building	Feb. 28: Study and Go Abroad Fair - North Building	<b>For all events at the MTCC, visit: <a href="http://www.mtccc.com/attendees/events.aspx">www.mtccc.com/attendees/events.aspx</a></b>
Jan. 30: QS World MBA Tour / QS World Grad School Tour / Connect 121 - South Building	Mar. 18 - 20: Toronto's ComicCon 2016 - South Building	



Jan. 1 - 10: Kent Monkman: The Rise & Fall of Civilization - Gardiner Museum	Jan. 1 - ongoing: J.M.W. Turner: Painting Set Free - Art Gallery of Ontario	Jan. 29 - Feb. 11: Winterlicious - Various Toronto Restaurants
Jan. 1 - 13: Red Bull Stratos: Mission to the Edge of Space - Ontario Science Centre	Jan. 1 - ongoing: Pompeii: In the Shadow of the Volcano - Royal Ontario Museum	Feb. 9 - 10: Mistatim - Young People's Theatre
Jan. 1 - 23: Phantom of the Opera - Princess of Wales Theatre	Jan. 1 - May 23: Viva Mexico! Clothing & Culture - Royal Ontario Museum	Feb. 22 - March 19: Goodnight Man - Young People's Theatre
Jan. 1 - 24: Andy Warhol: Stars of the Silver Screen - TIFF Bell Lighthouse	Jan. 16: Maple Leaf Monster Jam Tour - Rogers Centre	<b>For all Tourism Toronto events, visit: <a href="http://www.seetorontonow.com">www.seetorontonow.com</a></b>
	Jan. 16 - Feb. 28: Gaslight - Ed Mirvish Theatre	



Jan. 8 - 10: 40 <sup>th</sup> Annual North American International Motorcycle Super Show - Entrance 1, 2, 3, 5	Feb. 20: The Middle Eastern Bridal Show - Conference Centre	Feb. 25 - 28: Toronto Spring Camping & RV Show and Sale - Entrance 1, 2, 5
Feb. 12 - 15: The Spring Fishing & Boat Show - Entrance 5	Feb. 19 - 21: The Outdoor Adventure Show - Entrance 5	Mar. 11 - 13: Motorama Custom Car & Motorsport Expo - Entrance 1
Feb. 12 - 15: The GTA Home & Reno Show - Entrance 1	Feb. 19 - 21: Toronto's Golf & Travel Show - Entrance 3	Mar. 16 - 20: Toronto Sportsmen's Show - Entrance 1, 5
		<b>For all events at the International Centre, visit: <a href="http://www.internationalcentre.com">http://www.internationalcentre.com</a></b>



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Should you have any questions, comments or would like to submit an article to A.T.T.C.L. NEWS, please contact: **Heather Schell**, Customer Service & Business Manager, at (416) 504-4016 x 243 or by email at [heather@co-opcabs.com](mailto:heather@co-opcabs.com)