

April 27, 2017

Enhanced Licence Plate Denial

Backgrounder – Provincial Offences Fine Collection

Beginning on May 1, 2017, new legislation comes into effect that will assist Ontario municipalities to collect fines under the Provincial Offences Act (POA) through the Enhanced Licence Plate Denial Initiative. This will help municipalities in recovering some of the \$1.45 billion in defaulted POA fines dating back as far as the 1960s.

- Plate denial involves the refusal to validate an existing vehicle permit or to issue a new vehicle permit until all outstanding fines and fees are paid.
- A motor vehicle cannot be legally driven on Ontario roads without a current permit and tag attached to licence plates.
- Plate denial has traditionally been used for fine collection in limited circumstances (e.g. parking fines) but is now being expanded to include defaulted POA fines including driver-based offences (e.g. speeding, careless driving, driving without insurance) which, if past due, will result in licence suspension and now will include plate denial
- The denial is applicable to all plates owned by the defaulter (i.e. multi-plates) instead of just single plates.
- This will make it easier for law enforcement to identify suspended drivers on roads.
- Multi-plate denial can be applied to defaulted fines dating back 7 years from implementation date (May 1, 2010).
- Individuals with fines prior to May 1, 2010 should contact the appropriate court about making payment, in order to lift the suspension and/or denial from their driver and/or vehicle record.
- Fine defaulters may pay fines and reinstate their driver's licence simultaneously, with no delay at Service Ontario, if fine was between May 1, 2010 and May 1, 2017, if there are no other outstanding licensing requirements.
- The Courts Administration Office at Hastings County will accept partial payments with a court-ordered payment plan, in which case the fine won't be considered in default, and licence and permit will therefore not be under suspension.
- For Hastings County, the total value collectible is \$2.68 million representing 3,300 suspended fines over the past 7 years.

The Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus has been petitioning the Ontario government to provide municipalities with these tools to municipalities to allow them to collect outstanding POA fines and re-invest in their communities.