



*20 Orion Court
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4W6
Phone: 902-466-7516
Fax: 902-465-5734
Email: ataatlantic@eastlink.ca*

February 25, 2008

Minister Mark Parent
Department of Environment & Labour
P.O. Box 697
Halifax, NS
B3J 2T8

Dear Minister:

As you know new Violence in the Workplace regulations for the retail gasoline industry come into effect on April 2, 2008. Over the past few months the Association has had the opportunity to work with your department and provide input into the development of these new regulations to ensure the impact upon the Industry is fully understood. We appreciated this opportunity.

Since the Violence in the Workplace regulations were approved in December 2007, the province of British Columbia passed new regulations for the same reason, namely, providing greater protection for their retail gas industry workforce against the rising rate of theft and potentially violent activity resulting from gas and dash motorists.

The B.C. regulations, called Grants Law, are in response to a tragic incident in Maple Ridge B.C. where Grant DePatie, a gas attendant, lost his life trying to stop a gas and dash theft. B.C. regulations require motorists to pay first before fueling their vehicle.

The Retail Gasoline Industry in Nova Scotia continues to experience rising levels of gas and dash drive offs and workers are increasingly subjected to potential for violent activity or harmful confrontations.

Mr. Minister, the Retail Gasoline Dealers Association of Nova Scotia respects the efforts by your department and the government vis a vis new Violence in the Workplace regulations and driver's license suspensions for those convicted of these thefts. However, we firmly believe that more must be done. To this end we are preparing to recommend amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety regulations similar to British Columbia that further tighten up guidelines and thereby enable the Industry to move forward with changes in how gasoline is sold in Nova Scotia.

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We do not believe that implementing this new regulatory requirement will have any significant negative affects on the motoring public nor should it have any impact upon convenience or levels of service.

Over the next few months we will begin a communications effort to research and gauge the attitudes of retailers both independent and oil company operated as well as their customers, namely the motoring public.

In addition, we will gather information and feedback from our website and editorial from the Auto Atlantic Trade magazine.

We expect to have this information in time for our Annual General Meeting on May 31, 2008 after which time we will provide your office with this information along with our recommendation. If further information or clarification is required before May 31, we would welcome hearing from you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graham Conrad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "C".

Graham Conrad
Executive Director

GC/dp