

January 11, 2012

Board Reports on Wheelchair Accessible Transportation

The Board has published its new report, *Wheelchair Accessible Transportation by Taxi and Inter-city Bus in British Columbia*. This is a follow up to a Discussion Paper the Board posted in March 2011.

The Board published the Discussion Paper to improve its understanding of wheelchair accessible transportation issues. In response, the Board received comments from 46 organizations and individuals. We heard from the taxi and inter-city bus industry, people with disabilities, advocacy groups and local government representatives.

The Board is publishing this Report to share what we learned about accessible taxi and inter-city bus service in British Columbia. The Report shares perspectives on customer service, driver training, vehicles, and financial challenges, among other matters. It discusses actions the Board is taking. It also makes suggestions for actions that some others in British Columbia can take in areas that are outside the Board's jurisdiction.

The Board encourages taxi companies to read the Report and use the information to identify ways that they can enhance the accessibility of their transportation services. For the same purpose, we also encourage operators of inter-city buses (ICBs) to read the Report, especially the section on the accessibility of inter-city buses that operate in British Columbia.

We thank the individuals who read and responded to the Board's Discussion Paper. We also thank members of the Board's ad hoc advisory group on accessible transportation.

The Report is posted on the Board's accessible transportation web page:

http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/ptb/accessible_transportation.htm