

**Ministry of
Transportation**

Office of the Minister
Ferguson Block, 3rd Floor
77 Wellesley St. West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Z8
416 327-9200
www.mto.gov.on.ca

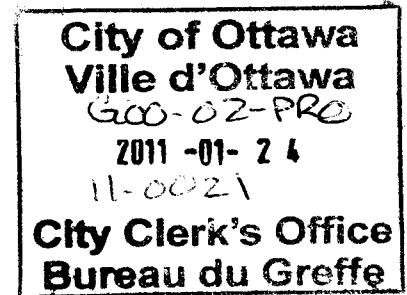
**Ministère des
Transports**

Bureau du ministre
Édifice Ferguson, 3^e étage
77, rue Wellesley ouest
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1Z8
416 327-9200
www.mto.gov.on.ca



JAN 18 2011

Mr. M. Rick O'Connor, CMO
City Clerk and Solicitor
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1J1



Dear Mr. O'Connor:

Thank you for your letter regarding the City of Ottawa's requests for financial incentives to incorporate electric vehicles in taxicab fleets and for the authority to impound vehicles operating as "bandit cabs." I am pleased to learn about the steps Ottawa is taking to encourage the use of low emission vehicles by repealing provisions that would prevent hybrids or other alternatively powered-vehicles from being introduced into the taxi fleet.

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation currently offers a number of incentives to promote the adoption of plug-in electric vehicles in the province. As of July 1, 2010, the Ontario government offers a purchase incentive of between \$5,000 to \$8,500 towards the purchase or lease of a new plug-in hybrid or battery electric vehicle. The value of the incentive is dependent upon the battery capacity of the vehicle. Drivers of eligible electric vehicles can also receive a new green vehicle licence plate, granting them access to the provincial high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane network, even with only one person in the vehicle.

Municipalities, businesses and non-profit organizations wishing to add electric vehicles to their fleets are eligible for Ontario's Electric Vehicle Incentive Program, and can receive purchase incentives towards a maximum of five electric vehicle purchases or leases per calendar year.

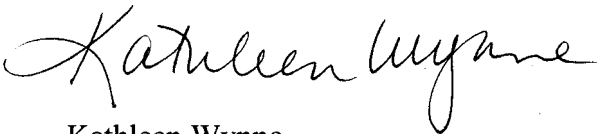
I encourage you to learn more about Ontario's Electric Vehicle Incentive Program by visiting the ministry's website at www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/vehicle/electric/ to learn about how the City of Ottawa's taxi fleet can take advantage of the province's electric vehicles incentives.

With respect to the city's request that the province grant municipalities authority to impound vehicles known to be operating as bandit cabs, I assure you that I appreciate the challenges associated with enforcement activities related to unlicensed taxis. However, government legal counsel has advised that legislative amendments under the *Highway Traffic Act* to allow for vehicle impoundments to combat illegal taxis are not a viable solution. There exists the potential for violating the illegal search and seizure provisions of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

As you are aware, municipalities have broad authority under the *Municipal Act* to establish licensing regimes for the provision of municipal taxi services. I would suggest that you explore opportunities for strengthening this regime with my colleague, the Honourable Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Thank you again for your letter. I am encouraged by your city's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen Wynne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Kathleen Wynne
Minister

c: The Honourable Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable John Wilkinson, Minister of the Environment