

ONTARIO COMMERCIAL TRUCK TRAINING ASSOCIATION



MEDIA RELEASE: Ontario Commercial Truck Training Association (OCTTA) Thanks MTO for Sincere Stakeholder Engagement Efforts

Brampton (July 22, 2021)

The Ontario Commercial Truck Training Association (OCTTA) thanks the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and Minister Caroline Mulroney for listening to our industry members and agreeing to provide an extension to ensure our members can comply with new restricted Class A license testing regulations.

OCTTA has been clear from the outset that we do not disagree with the policy. However, the originally provided timeline did not adequately take into consideration current industry realities and the undue burden it would have on members like the 40+ small businesses we represent.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a serious detrimental financial impact on trucking schools, which are already struggling to survive without the burden of quickly purchasing new trucks to meet updated requirements. Regardless, securing a new manual truck in the current market would not be possible until next year. Most trucks on the road today are automatic.

"We thank the MTO and Minister Mulroney for listening to important trucking school stakeholders and providing an extension to vulnerable small businesses trying to get by during the pandemic," said OCTTA President Narinder Singh. "Our association has no issues with the policy. However, our members have been clear throughout the stakeholder engagement process that they can not practically meet the new regulatory requirements. This is due to a combination of COVID-19 related financial pressures and the lack of manual truck supply in the market. Procuring new manual trucks is not a simple task, as it also requires small trucking school businesses to add additional and costly infrastructure and storage facilities above and beyond the cost of the trucks itself."

Narinder Singh Jaswal (President OCTTA)

