



May 27, 2010

Mr. Phillip Howell
Chief Executive Officer and
Superintendent of Financial Services
Financial Services Commission of Ontario
5160 Yonge Street,
Box 85, 17th Floor,
Toronto, ON M2N 6L9

Dear Mr. Howell,

The Ontario Bar Association (OBA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on The Financial Services Commission of Ontario's 2010 Statement of Priorities.

The OBA consists of 17,500 lawyers from a broad range of sectors, including those working in private practice, government, non-governmental organizations and in-house counsel. Our members have, over the years, analyzed and provided comments to the Ontario government and its agencies on numerous legislative and policy initiatives.

The OBA, through its Insurance Law Section and the Automobile Insurance Working Group, offers the following comment and recommendation:

The current provision in the Insurance Act calling for a review of auto insurance every 5 years is insufficient. More timely and regular assessments of the product are required on an on-going basis. Problems and pressures in the auto insurance system can be avoided or mitigated if a mechanism is in place that allows for fair and transparent evaluation of the auto product on a regular basis by stakeholders working with government. The process needs to address the three primary objectives in the auto insurance system: the interests of consumers in a product that provides adequate protection at a fair price; the interests of accident victims in a fair, accessible and equitable product; and, the viability of the insurance industry in the marketplace.

The OBA, recognizing the importance of the ongoing work carried out by FSCO, and valuing the open communication which has existed between our two organizations, would be pleased to meet and discuss this, and other issues, as you may require. Again, we thank you for the opportunity to provide this recommendation.

Yours sincerely,

Carole J. Browne
President