

March 18, 2018

Hon Kathleen Ganley
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Government of Alberta
424 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Ganley,

Our rural crime watch association is very pleased with your recent announcement addressing the difficulties rural residents are encountering with crime in our communities.

We know that additional police officers will help but distances are often so great that rapid response is impossible. The Rural Crime Watch program was established so that residents could be partners with the RCMP. Most often our members are the eyes and ears of the community.

We believe we have a potential solution that will help in our efforts. We believe that Alberta should return to a two license plate system. Our members often keep track of unknown vehicles by recording license plate numbers but since the change to a single plate it has been more difficult.

We have had situations reported where vehicles are driven into rural properties and as soon as they see someone is home they back out rather than turn around. They don't want their license plate recorded. Another tactic they employ is ensuring their rear license plate is covered in mud obscured by dust from gravel roads. We know that a front license plate does not get as dirty and can be observed when vehicles are on-coming.

We recall that the two license plate system was abandoned as a cost-cutting measure. A small increase in registration fees would likely more than offset the cost—especially as license plates last for many years.

We appreciate your consideration of our suggestion and we look forward to your reply.

Yours truly,