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## CYCLIST SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLE ACT REFORM

In the February 2017 issue of *An Agenda for Justice* newsletter, cycling safety has become one of a series of justice and legislative reforms and recommendations embraced by the Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch. This Road Safety initiative was produced with the assistance of our Personal Injury Lawyer, David Hay Q.C. to recognize the need for Cyclist Safety and *Motor Vehicle Act* reform. *An agenda of Justice* offers a series of recommendations and reforms to increase the justice system's effectiveness and to improve BC laws. To learn more, click here.



THE CANADIAN  
BAR ASSOCIATION  
British Columbia Branch

### Cyclist Safety and *Motor Vehicle Act* Reform

Cycling is growing as an accepted and popular means of transportation in British Columbia. Yet the *Motor Vehicle Act*, which sets out the rules for road use, has changed little since 1957. As a result, cyclists and motorists alike may be unclear as to the relevant laws, if they exist. This lack of clarity creates a

potentially dangerous situation for cyclists. Today, this act might be better named the Road Safety Act to reflect the fact that it is not only motorists who require protection and consideration but all road users. In 2015, Ontario introduced a number of reforms aimed at making roads safer for cyclists. BC should follow suit by, for example, clarifying when a cyclist would not be required to ride as near to the right side, increasing fines for "dooring" of cyclists, clarifying how closely a motor vehicle can travel next to a cyclist, providing reasonable limitation on powers to seize a cycle, and improving access to pedestrian-controlled traffic signals.

#### RECOMMENDED NO COST ACTION

Update the *Motor Vehicle Act* to recognize the prevalence of cycling as an established and growing form of transportation.



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