

From Queen's Park by Sylvia Jones MPP ? Is the licence plate on your car peeling off?

Many of us spend a lot of time in our cars ? both for work and for recreation.

This summer, as I drive throughout Dufferin-Caledon, I am seeing more and more vehicles with peeling or bubbling licence plates. Originally, I thought it was a case of wear and tear from our many gravel roads and weather, but now I am learning there is more to the story of peeling licence plates.

If you have noticed your licence plate starting to bubble or peel off it could be due to a manufacturing defect that was first discovered almost three years ago. The government has known since September 2012 there were problems with peeling paint on licence plates, yet it has done nothing to resolve the manufacturing defect. Trilcor Correctional Industries produces the licence plates through an adult offender work program at the Central East Correctional Centre in Lindsay.

As the car owner, you will be held liable if your licence plate is unreadable, and will be obligated to replace your damaged licence plates. Also, if you are charged with having an illegible licence plates, it will result in a \$110 fine. Approximately 18,000 licence plates are brought in to Service Ontario a year because they are damaged.

My Progressive Conservative colleague from Perth-Wellington, MPP Randy Pettapiece, who is the critic to the Minister of Government and Consumer Services, has sent a letter to the Minister highlighting the problem and asking that the issue be resolved immediately. The Ministry has known about these peeling plates for three years and has yet to resolve it. In the meantime, drivers will be held responsible if their licence plates are peeling and unreadable, for a design defect the government should be resolving with the manufacturer.

If your licence plate has begun to bubble, peel off, fade or is experiencing wear and tear, you can have them replaced free of charge as long as the plates are less than five years old.

Take the damaged plates to a Service Ontario centre and bring a piece of identification (i.e. driver's licence), proof of car insurance, and your vehicle permit. If your licence plates are older than five years it will cost \$29 to have them replaced. I would also like to know if you have had to replace your plates already or if you have any problems replacing your plates so that I can work with my colleague and the Minister to get the root issue solved; having licence plates that hold up to the wear and tear we put on our vehicles. To find the closest Service Ontario centre please visit www.ontario.ca/serviceontario. If you have further questions or need additional assistance, please contact my office at 1-800-265-1603 or sylvia.jonesco@pc.ola.org

