



Date: February 6, 2009 – Vancouver

Event: Announcement of New Driver's Licences and B.C.
Identification Cards

Check Against Delivery

- Thank you for the introduction, and thank you all for joining us.
- Today, you'll hear about new technology that's going to protect a piece of ID most British Columbians carry.
- For decades, a driver's licence has represented much more than meeting the requirements to drive a vehicle.
- It's widely accepted as proof of who you are – whether you're opening a bank account, applying for a passport, or entering a licensed establishment as a young adult.
- But the integrity of our licences isn't just useful.
- Increasingly, it's essential – for a number of public safety, financial and other reasons.
- Consider this: in B.C., we've seen prohibited drivers try to obtain new licences under different names.
- They do this to keep driving and jeopardizing other road users.
- With so much trust riding on these cards, organized criminals also seek ways to falsify them.
- A phony driver's licence can help pave the way to fake credit cards and other fake ID that criminals can use themselves or sell to associates.
- So the integrity of our licences is vital to the future of identification and of legitimate business.
- That's why we're changing the B.C. driver's licence – and, for young people and those who don't drive, the B.C. Identification card.

- Before I continue, I'd like to ask Fred to help me unveil some enlarged versions of the new cards.
- *(Minister helps unveil giant cards)*
- As you can see, the look is new, with type that's arranged to help police and others read key information more easily.
- And young people will have a prominent under-19 identifier on their cards, to help retailers, staff in licensed establishments, and others validate their ages as necessary.
- But the integrity and greater value of these cards lies below the surface.
- They take advantage of facial recognition technology, which will provide strong protection against identity theft and fraud.
- This technology will enable ICBC to compare a description of a cardholder's image with that person's existing image on file – and with the corporation's entire database of millions of image descriptions.
- The idea is to stop those who try to get a new licence from ICBC while prohibited –it's a lot tougher to make up a new face than a new name.
- The cards themselves will include counterfeit-prevention devices like holographic overlays and laser-engraving of the photo and signature.
- They'll also carry a second image of the cardholder for extra security.
- So fraudsters, beware:
- Your chances of effectively faking or changing a driver's licence or ID card just went from unlikely to almost impossible.
- Together, these cutting-edge improvements will put B.C. at the forefront of card security in North America.
- ICBC will begin issuing them on March 2 and, as old licences and ID cards expire, the new cards will become the norm.
- Notably, the fees for the new licences and cards will not change.
- All British Columbians will benefit from greater security of their identification documents, while criminals will have a much tougher time committing fraud.