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26 September 2016

PW15.12.193

**TORONTO BICYCLING NETWORK CONDEMNS BIKE LICENCING BY-LAW
PW15.12**

Cycling is a right under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act, while motoring is a privilege. It seems that the framer of the bicycle licencing by-law forgot this fundamental truth. Since bicycle licencing doesn't exist in any other major municipal jurisdiction in Canada, and hasn't for a long while, there are real reasons why it was abandoned: a) too costly to administer; b) hard to enforce; c) no appreciable benefits.

If the framer of this backwards-focused by-law was serious about bike safety, he would be making a proposal to increase funding to Forestry, Parks and Recreation's budget for its CAN-BIKE programs. By reducing the cost of the program to only \$20, or less, per person, and a proper marketing campaign is added, thousands more people a year could be certified at the CAN-BIKE 1 or 2 level. That would make cycling in the City safer for everyone, and affect real change, as opposed to what amounts to a political stunt in this licencing scheme.

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About Toronto Bicycling Network: Founded in 1983, TBN is a not-for profit organization with more than 850 members and is one of the friendliest clubs you can cycle with. During the spring, summer, and fall, TBN offers an abundance of cycling activities for riders of all levels. TBN also organizes a variety of other activities, including hiking, cross-country skiing, ice-skating and weekend excursions.

For more information about The Toronto Bicycling Network, please visit www.tbn.ca.