
 Subject: Urgent Legislative Proposal: A Comprehensive Strategy to Ban Licence Plate Obstructions and Uphold Public Safety in New Brunswick

Marie Seshat Landry <marielandryceo@gmail.com>

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To: "McKee, Robert (LEG)" <Robert.McKee@gnb.ca>, Susan.Holt@gnb.ca, kris.austin@gnb.ca, PMO-CPM Minister | Premier Ministre <pm@pm.gc.ca>, "Nathalie (JPS/JSP) Ouellette" <nathalie.ouellette@gnb.ca>

 Subject: Urgent Legislative Proposal: A Comprehensive Strategy to Ban Licence Plate Obstructions and Uphold Public Safety in New Brunswick

To:

The Honourable Susan Holt, Premier of New Brunswick (Susan.Holt@gnb.ca)

Mr. Rob McKee, MLA for Moncton Centre (Rob.McKee@gnb.ca)

Cc:

Nathalie Ouellette, Manager of Vehicle Safety, NB (Nathalie.Ouellette@gnb.ca)

Hon. Kris Austin, Minister of Justice and Public Safety (kris.austin@gnb.ca)

PMO The Right Honourable Mark Carney (pm@pm.gc.ca)

Date: July 4, 2025

Dear Premier Holt and Mr. McKee,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen of New Brunswick. I am also the founder of Marie Landry's Spy Shop, an international blog dedicated to public safety, ethical investigation, and community empowerment. From both my perspective as a resident of this province and as a public safety advocate, I am compelled to propose an urgent legislative strategy to address a severe threat to our communities: the use of devices that obstruct vehicle licence plates.

This is not a minor traffic issue to be managed with a \$172.50 fine; it is a fundamental assault on the rule of law that requires a robust, two-pronged legislative response.

Part I: The True Nature of the Offence

Currently, the obstruction of a licence plate is treated as a simple infraction under Section 68.1 of the *Motor Vehicle Act*. This view is dangerously inadequate. We must reframe this act for what it truly is:

- **An Act of Criminal Concealment:** A person does not obstruct their licence plate by accident. It is a deliberate act to achieve anonymity, often to facilitate or escape accountability for more serious crimes. It is a key tool in hit-and-runs, abductions, trafficking, and property theft, directly enabling offences under the *Criminal Code of Canada*. It is, in essence, an overt act of **obstruction of justice (CCC, s. 139)** before a crime has even been investigated.
- **An Affront to International Human Rights:** As a signatory to the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**, Canada has a binding legal duty to protect the **right to life (Article 6)** and the **right to security of person (Article 9)**. When the state permits tools of anonymity that directly empower criminals to abduct, kill, or injure with impunity, it fails to meet these fundamental obligations.
- **A Crime Against the Community:** A vehicle with an obscured plate is a direct threat to every citizen in its vicinity. It unilaterally revokes the social contract of accountability in our public spaces, telling every other driver, cyclist, and pedestrian, "If I harm you, you cannot hold me responsible."

This is not hyperbole; it is the functional reality of these devices. A government that understands this reality has a duty to act decisively.

Part II: The Proposed Two-Pronged Legislative Solution

A problem this serious requires a comprehensive solution that both empowers the public to protect themselves and eliminates the commercial source of the problem. I respectfully propose the following two-part legislative package.

Prong 1: Empower and Protect Citizens Acting for Public Safety

The current law creates a paradox: enforcement of plate visibility is often neglected, yet a citizen who safely and non-destructively removes an illegal cover risks being charged with mischief. This is an unjust barrier to civic responsibility.

We propose a "Good Samaritan" amendment to provide legal protection to citizens who act in good faith.

Proposed Amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act: Section 68.1(2)

Citizen Action to Ensure Licence Plate Visibility in Defense of Public Safety

68.1(2) In recognition of the fundamental rights to life, security, and public accountability, a person who, acting in good faith and without causing damage, removes or disables an attachment, device, cover, or other material that unlawfully obscures the identifying characters of a motor vehicle licence plate is immune from criminal and civil liability for that action.

(a) Conditions for Immunity: This immunity shall apply only when:

- (i) The obstruction of the licence plate is clearly visible on a vehicle located in a public place;
- (ii) The action is limited to the non-destructive removal or disabling of the obstruction itself; and
- (iii) The item removed is either left with the vehicle, surrendered to a peace officer, or disposed of in a lawful manner.

(b) Limitations: This section does not authorize the use of force against a person, forcible entry into a vehicle, or the removal of the official licence plate itself.

Prong 2: Ban the Sale of Instruments of Evasion

It is contradictory public policy to punish the user of an illegal device while allowing businesses to profit from its sale. We must stop this problem at its source. New Brunswick has already set a precedent by banning the sale of radar detectors—devices whose sole purpose is to subvert the law. Licence plate covers, which pose a far greater public danger, must be treated with the same logic.

I propose new legislation to prohibit the commercial distribution of these devices.

Proposed Legislation: Prohibition on the Commercial Distribution of Licence Plate Obstructing Devices

(1) No person, retailer, or commercial enterprise in New Brunswick shall import, offer for sale, sell, distribute for compensation, or install any accessory, cover, film, spray, or device that is marketed for, or has the primary effect of, obstructing, distorting, obscuring, or altering the legibility of the identifying characters of a licence plate, or that interferes with its recognition by the human eye or any electronic device.

(2) A violation of this section shall be an offence punishable by a fine of not less than \$1,000 for an individual and \$5,000 for a corporation for a first offence. Subsequent offences may result in the suspension of municipal or provincial business licences.

Part III: Call to Action

The safety of New Brunswickers and the integrity of our justice system are at stake. As your constituent, I respectfully request your government to take the following immediate actions:

1. **Introduce this two-pronged legislative package** to both empower citizens and ban the sale of licence plate obstruction devices.
2. **Refer this matter to the Standing Committees on Justice and Public Safety** for an urgent review of the systemic non-enforcement of current laws and the impact on criminal investigations.
3. **Issue an official statement** recognizing the gravity of this issue and affirming your government's commitment to closing these dangerous legal loopholes.

Through my international platform, I am prepared to provide any assistance necessary—from public outreach to consultation on legal drafting—to see these vital protections enacted. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your policy advisors to advance this agenda.

Thank you for your leadership and your attention to this critical matter of public safety.

Respectfully,

Marie Seshat Landry

Citizen of Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada and Earth

Founder, Marie Landry's Spy Shop

PS: Everything below is illegal in public everywhere on earth.





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3 attachments



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