



Media Advisory

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In years past the Queen Charlotte RCMP have taken a number of initiatives to educate youth about bicycle and cycling safety. The police would like to stress the importance of wearing a helmet while cycling and of late have been noticing a negative trend with adults and youth not complying.

The RCMP are concerned for the safety of all cyclists and would like adults in the community to expand on the initiatives and take an active roll in setting the example for the youth by properly wearing helmets while cycling at all times.

The Queen Charlotte RCMP wish to advise the communities of Queen Charlotte and Skidegate that the police will be conducting targeted enforcement of cyclists to ensure that they are complying with Section 184 of the Motor Vehicle Act which states:

1. A person commits an offence if that person operates or rides as a passenger on a cycle and is not properly wearing a bicycle safety helmet;

and

2. A parent or guardian of a person under the age of 16 years commits an offence if the parent or guardian authorizes or knowingly permits the person to operate or ride as a passenger on a cycle if that person is not wearing a bicycle safety helmet.

Enforcement action by police could include having the cyclist dismount and walk their bike, youth being brought home to their parents and in some cases violation tickets being issued to the operator, or parent in the case of a youth.

With the low light and heavy rain during the winter months, and the extra vehicle traffic during the summer, cyclists should take extra care when riding their bikes. All cyclists need to be aware of their surroundings and always ride in single file with the flow of traffic and not against. When riding at night, head and tail lights are also a motor vehicle act requirement, as well, high visibility clothing is a good idea.

Should any person have any question regarding this or any other section of the British Columbia Motor Vehicle Act please feel free to contact the Queen Charlotte RCMP at (250) 559-4421.

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