

NAAACCC Report #55 July, 2006
The British Columbia AirCare
Collector Car Club Council
“Five years of progress”

In September 2000, the province instituted an emissions requirement for vehicles applying for collector vehicle status. Predictably, this policy change was met with apprehension from collector car hobbyists. In response, the AirCare program approached a number of collector car clubs to determine the best way to ensure that this group had a voice into future AirCare policy modifications or enhancements that would impact their hobby. This led to the formation of the Collector Car Club Council (CCCC), which, met for the first time on July 5, 2001.

The Collector Car Clubs were represented by:

- John Carlson (National Association of Antique Automobile Clubs of Canada Corporation),
- Fred Bennett (Old English Car Club & the Coalition of Concerned Collector Car Clubs which involves a collection of unique clubs including the Specialty Vehicle Association of BC), and,
- Jim Macdonald (Vintage Car Club of Canada).

The formation of the AirCare CCCC established a valuable working relationship between AirCare administrators and the collector car community. It also proved to be an effective forum where opinions have been heard and real solutions implemented to the direct benefit of the hobby.

Currently, the Council has representation from:

- AirCare
- ICBC
- Envirotec Canada (the AirCare testing contractor)
- National Association of Antique Automobile Clubs of Canada Corporation (NAAACCC)
- Old English Car Club (OECC)
- Coalition of Concerned Collector Car Clubs
- Specialty Vehicle Association of BC (SVABC)
- Vintage Car Club of Canada (VCCC)
- Other associations as supported by the above

The AirCare CCCC generally meets quarterly. Part of every meeting is a summary of constituent concerns that are brought forward by the collector car club representatives. This provides both AirCare and ICBC the opportunity to respond to specific issues and ensures that collector car enthusiasts are treated fairly within the system.

As part of establishing an ongoing relationship with collector vehicle owners, AirCare representatives have attended collector car club general meetings to answer questions regarding AirCare policies or business rules. The AirCare CCCC

also helps facilitate assistance for vehicle owners with particularly challenging diagnosis and repair issues by giving them access to AirCare technical staff and use of AirCare's Research laboratory. This has been a valuable part of the CCCC and benefited individual hobbyist greatly.

After five years, the council has proven to be an effective forum for the collector car hobby where their views are considered, debated and in many cases adopted by senior administrators.

Important Dates

February 2001: AirCare exempts pre-1934 vintage vehicles from emissions testing.

July 5, 2001: AirCare Collector Car Club Council meets for the first time.

March 26, 2002: The Collector Car Club Council expands to include ICBC. This allows Collector Car Club members to address licensing and insurance issues directly with representatives from ICBC. (A representative from the ICBC's Specialty Licensing/Insurance Department attends the meetings as a member of the Council.)

April 1, 2002: AirCare introduced an alternative test procedure for vehicles applying for Collector or Modified Collector plates that have been pre-approved by ICBC for collector status. This change originated from input provided by the Collector Car Club Council. Potential collector vehicles were now required to pass an "idle only" test rather than a full driving test as a condition of receiving collector status.

In subsequent meetings from 2002 to 2006 many topics have been discussed including potential changes to Mod A & Mod B requirements, composite and steel aftermarket bodies, period accessories and the expansion of the modified collector plate program to a rolling year cut off.

June 2006: ICBC expands the model year eligibility for *modified* collector cars to 1958 and older (from 1948 and older). This new segment of vehicles will require a full AirCare test as a condition of qualifying for modified collector status. The emission requirement for these vehicles will be minimal, as most of these 1949-1958 model year vehicles have always received a full AirCare test as a condition of operating on the regular "blue and white" license plate. In other words, the new modified designation will not change the test type or emissions standards for these vehicles.

Peter Hill

Chair, Collector Car Club Council

(Peter has been Manager, Program Policy for the AirCare program since the program's inception in 1992.)