



For Immediate Release

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Liberals call for review of Motor Vehicle Safety Act after hearings on Toyota

OTTAWA – Following witness testimony on Parliament Hill this morning that revealed a complete failure by the Harper Conservatives to protect Canadian drivers, Liberals are asking for a complete review of motor vehicle safety in Canada and further study of the government's response to the Toyota recall.

"Transport Minister John Baird has shown no leadership in protecting Canadian consumers during the Toyota recalls," said Liberal Transport Critic Joe Volpe. "The Minister must make an appearance before the Transport Committee and immediately get involved to ensure that Canadian car owners are safe."

The Toyota hearings by the Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities have demonstrated major gaps in federal legislation and resources devoted to vehicle defect oversight.

Last week, testimony provided by Transport Canada officials confirmed that only 10 defect investigators are employed by Transport Canada despite the fact that they receive more than 1,200 public complaints per year and there are 29 million vehicles registered in Canada.

Testimony today by Toyota officials showed a dangerous disconnect between officials at Transport Canada and Toyota during the recall process. Mr. Volpe said Canadians should be very concerned by the government's hands-off approach as the regulator of motor vehicle safety.

"Minister Baird has been aware for some time of the complaints from Toyota owners, yet he took no action until the Opposition pressed for hearings," said Mr. Volpe.

"Canadians need to regain their confidence in the auto industry and Transport Canada. Our job as legislators is to ensure that Canadians are quickly informed of motor vehicle issues and that there is legislation and resources to protect their safety."

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