TO: Provincial Directors of the Outdoor Recreation Council  

RE: Workshop on Off-Highway Vehicle Use, December 7th & 8th, 1977

As outlined at the Council's Annual General Meeting, a small number of Provincial Associations met with staff of the E.L.U.C. Secretariat on November 7th. A Government Discussion Paper on proposed approaches to resolving problems caused by improper Off-Highway Vehicle Use was reviewed by Secretariat Staff and a short discussion ensued. I have asked our Co-ordinator to send you copies of the discussion paper, to briefly summarise some of the issues raised at that meeting and to compare the paper with the December 1976 Brief submitted by the Council to Government. This latter item was entitled "Towards a Programme for Managing Off-Highway Vehicles in B.C." and is enclosed.

It appears that the Environment and Land-Use Committee wishes to bring in the necessary changes to legislation and regulations during 1978. They are asking concerned Associations to respond in writing within six weeks. Secretariat Staff also request that Provincial Associations confine their response to letters or briefs to the E.L.U.C. Secretariat, and that any necessary political action such as involving newspapers, writing to Ministers, be put off until this period of consultation is over.

To assist the consultation process and to help coordinate a response to Government from interested Provincial Associations, the Council has agreed to host a Workshop on December 8th, 1977. This workshop is viewed as a method for identifying those issues in the Discussion Paper, about which Provincial Associations agree, and to identify those issues about which consensus cannot be reached. It is suggested that a consensus report could be issued following this meeting. Associations supporting the consensus would be identified along with any disagreements.

I feel that as we are so close to new legislation, regulations and programmes, that a united voice on the issues that we can all agree upon would ensure government action in the near future. I commend the Government for encouraging this type of public participation. I would like to point out that attendance at the Workshop and participation in drawing up a consensus statement does not in any way limit the independent submitting of briefs to the Secretariat. We are merely suggesting that this be done after the Workshop.

Please find enclosed the Agenda for the Workshop and the important informal meeting.