

My name is Glen Sali from Capital Cabs in Regina. This year the taxi industry was thinking that we would get a decrease in insurance instead we are getting a hefty increase. SGI is evaluating previous years but a lot has changed in our industry that needs to be accounted for.

Ride share came to Saskatchewan and is taking thousands of trips from the taxi industry plus thousands of these ride share operators take thousands of trips not booked through the ride share companies. This all comes off of the taxi drivers income plus we in the industry lost hundreds of our drivers. What has happened with PB classes also has affected the taxi and limo industry forcing me to get out of the limo business.

As you are aware, Covid-19 came and destroyed the transportation industry. It will take some time for the taxi industry to come back but it will never be the same. We must understand that through these difficult times, the only thing that was working was the taxi industry. There was no limos, no shuttles, no bus service and no rideshare. Just taxis were working and putting their drivers safety at risk. This was a very scary time for my drivers and I am very proud of every driver that worked through these times. The taxi industry was the only form of transportation for the public. We need to protect this industry not find ways to hurt the industry. SGI plays a major role in this. They can help us survive or destroy us. From insurance cost to regulating or should I say, deregulating the transportation industry. But when you do this, what is left?

The taxi industry is in very tough times but deregulating and putting our insurance up is not good. When we have meetings with SGI, all we get is the reason why our rates increase but our income has dropped and this means less time taxis spend on the roads. Right now taxis are down 50 % of the time but the public needs our industry to do well. They need our service. Not everyone has a visa or a smart phone. We in the industry seem to specialize in taking seniors and children which rely on the taxi industry to be there for them but we need more than that to survive.

I went into taxi accidents not at fault, its 66% of accidents but if you want to look at one group maybe SGI should change every thing and charge 16 year old to 26 year olds a different rate since what I was told, that their rate would be too high.

I think SGI should put every thing all together to make it easier on everyone. The ones that get into accidents would pay more.

I do know the taxi industry plays a major role in public transportation. We need the support from SGI or higher up. I see how the industry is moving everything to taxi apps and getting away from live dispatchers to cut costs. Capital Cabs gives customers a choice, either apps or live dispatcher and most people want to talk to live dispatchers. So the facts are that the taxi industry lost customers, trip counts are down, taxi's not putting as many kilometres on the vehicle and there are thousands of other part time operators with ride share. So our rates should drop not go up!!

This report that SGI did was done before ride share and the declassifying of PB class which played a major roll on effects on the taxi industry. This should of reduced our rates and we are paying 3 times the rate of the other classes doing the same work now and getting 40 percent less revenue!! As you are aware, Covid 19 has caused a major blow to our industry. SGI didn't take that in account of how the changes would effect the destruction of our taxi industry.

SGI did a report on the PT class or taxi and didn't include ride share or declassification of transportation industry including bus in their report to you, not enough current data. They should of estimated or took in to consideration the damage they did to the regulated industry such as the taxi industry and should of compensated our industry for these major changes. They knew this would hurt our industry big time. Our drivers are full time and make their living from this and they don't have any other income. Ride share does so they call it part time and taking premier business away from us. Instead they want to increase our rates and purposely reduce our customer base. They knew taxis would suffer from this but turned a blind eye on this which hurt hard working drivers trying to make a living. Ride share gets a part time insurance rate but we pay 3 times more than ride share regardless if the car works or not. For example, if I have a car and put 500kms a year should I get a discount on my rate when the next guy puts 20,000kms a year and pays the same rate. Maybe SGI should consider this also and let's be fair. That's what happened with ride share, less kms, cheaper price and they should pay the same rate. Also, no set customer fee, sky is the limit, that is how ride share companies make billions of dollars. Less regulations and cheaper insurance.

The taxi industry needs your help. Please leave our rates the same or reduce them.

Thanks,

Glen Sali