

I would like to stress that as the revised policy envisages action being taken by the Department even when formal charges have not been laid, it will be very important for the credibility of the process that the police report that forms the basis of action provides objective substantiation of the evidence of impairment. In cases where a diplomat has maintained his or her right not to take a breathalyser, a report documenting the type of evidence accepted by courts to support a charge of impaired driving would be helpful.

As you will see, we encourage the laying of impaired driving charges against diplomats in circumstances that would result in the laying of charges against Canadians. Although the policy permits the Department to take interim measures, the laying of appropriate charges under the Criminal Code of Canada will allow the Department to intervene more substantively with members of the diplomatic community and deal tangibly with the consequences of impaired driving.

I wish to draw to your attention another element in the Department's renewal process. I have asked the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs to establish an Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of the police, the diplomatic corps and, if required, members of social assistance agencies. This committee would meet twice a year, or more often if required, to discuss matters of mutual concern, underscoring the availability of clear communications channels linking key stakeholders. The Deputy Minister will be contacting you at a later date to arrange for a first session.

I would be very grateful if a copy of this letter could be provided to all your members across Canada, and I wish to thank you for your continued co-operation.

Yours very truly,
Original signed by
John Manley
a signé l'original

John Manley