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MOOSE COLLISION STATISTICS GO UP: RCMP

The moose vehicle collision rate in Newfoundland is higher than previously thought, according to an RCMP review.

The RCMP completed a comprehensive physical review of accident reports and other records for 2009 and 2010, in response to a request from Ches Crosbie Barristers, a St. John's law firm bringing a class action against the Provincial Government. Mr. Crosbie released the new statistics today.

"The final numbers show an increase of 3 collisions to 658 for 2009 and an increase of 7 to 702 for 2010," said Mr. Crosbie. "When combined with the RNC statistics, the totals are 684 for 2009 and 783 for 2010." The information from the RCMP is posted at http://www.chescrosbie.com/library/Stats_from_RCMP_revised.pdf.

The RCMP figure of close to 700 released by Mr. Crosbie in February was rejected by Environment and Conservation Minister Ross Wiseman in the [House of Assembly](#) in March as "totally inaccurate".

The physical search done by the RCMP now shows that an earlier count based on a computer search underestimated the collision rate, and the total reported by both police forces for last year is closer to 800.

Mr. Crosbie added that equally important as the high number of moose collisions each year is the fact that the number is increasing. "Tragically, we can expect another grim harvest of injury and death this summer," he said.

The class action lawsuit seeks a reduction in moose densities, erection of moose fencing, and compensation for people put in hospital or killed as a result of moose vehicle collisions.

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