Driving convictions will impact Optional insurance premiums

More changes are coming to make car insurance better for B.C. Starting September 1, 2019, customers with frequent or serious driving convictions will pay more for their ICBC Optional insurance. This is being done so that drivers without driving convictions can pay less. It brings us in line with most other car insurance companies who look at driving convictions to determine a customer’s premium, or even whether to insure them.

How will it work?

- Drivers with frequent or serious driving convictions within a three-year period (scan period) will pay more for their Collision and Extended Third Party Liability coverage.
- The scan period starts June 10, 2019 and will gradually increase to the three years. The scan period will look at driving convictions for violations that occurred on or after June 10, 2019.
- How much more a customer pays will depend on the severity and the number of convictions:
  - Minor convictions — most of those under the Driver Penalty Program — such as failing to stop, failing to yield, speeding, as well as not wearing a seatbelt will only result in increased premiums, if there are two or more convictions during the scan period.
  - Serious driving convictions — those under the Driver Risk Premium program — such as Criminal Code offences, impaired driving, excessive speeding, and distracted driving, will result in increased premiums after the first conviction.

Who is impacted?

Currently, about 10% of ICBC’s Optional insurance customers have either two or more minor driving convictions or have been convicted of a serious driving offence in the past three years. They are not factored into ICBC’s Optional premiums today even though drivers who get tickets are more likely to get into a crash. These changes will help make sure B.C. has a car insurance system that works for all British Columbians, today and in the future.