



# **Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners**

## **Health and Safety**

Prepared: September 11, 2015

### **Issue: Recreational Snowmobile Safety**

#### **Background to the Issue:**

- Snowmobiling is a very popular winter recreational activity in Manitoba.
- Through organized groups (i.e. SnoMan) winter trails have been developed that carry snowmobilers to areas that are not accessible by other means and at other times.
- These trails are operated with many of the same rules that apply to roadways and highways.
- Occasionally, snowmobilers operate their machines in a reckless manner (i.e. too high a speed), which can be a hazard to themselves or to others in the vicinity.

#### **Cautionary Notes:**

- Snowmobilers should make sure they are aware of the risks involved by studying operating manuals and reading the manuals provided by Man. Public Insurance when they licence their snow machines.
- Alcohol consumption and snowmobiling do not mix – impairment results in accidents.

#### **Legal and Cost Implications:**

- Snowmobiling can be an expensive sport (machine maintenance; proper clothing).
- Snowmobilers are required to have a SnoPass when travelling on groomed SnoFund trails. This pass is available from MPI when licencing snow machines.

#### **Action Taken by MACO:**

- Many cottage owners access their cottages by snowmobile in winter and MACO supports safe recreational snowmobiling.

#### **MACO's Recommendations for the Future:**

- Encourage and promote safe snowmobiling by making use of available resources such as: Transport Canada and Manitoba Public Insurance (Road Safety, Driving Tips).

#### **Position of MACO**

- Snowmobile safety is everyone's responsibility; ensure you understand the basic principles of safety for the sport you are engaged in.
- Make use of available safety courses.
- Be aware – travelling on groomed trails without a "SnoPass" could result in a fine.