

Changes to the private sale of used motor vehicles

Starting October 1, the Ontario retail sales tax (RST) paid on the private purchase of a used car, van or light truck has been based on the vehicle's fair market value.

"The fair market value is the greater of the purchase price or the wholesale value of the vehicle, as listed in the Canadian Red Book, a well-known standard throughout

the used car industry," says Revenue Minister Shelley Wark-Martyn. "It's always been necessary to pay tax on the purchase of a used vehicle, whether through a dealer or privately. However, the appropriate amount of Ontario RST is not always paid when a vehicle is transferred. This program will ensure everyone pays their fair share."

The change in the way the tax is calculated is part of the Used Vehicle Information Program, a joint project of the ministries of Revenue, Transportation and Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Paying RST is not necessary on the transfer of all used vehicles. Some changes in ownership, such as gifts between certain family members can be made tax-free, but only one tax-free transfer every 12 months is allowed. Other exemptions included purchases made by Status Indians or diplomats, estate settlements, and purchases made by

dealers who hold both a dealer and retail sales tax permit. Purchasers must show proof to support all exemptions.

Part two of the program takes effect on April 1, 1993, when the seller of a used vehicle will have to buy a vehicle transfer package, to give to the buyer. The package will include information on the vehicle's Ontario registration history, liens, fair market value, and any additional forms needed to complete the change in ownership. The cost of the package is \$20 and it will be available starting in February 1993.

"The vehicle transfer package will improve customer service by providing one-stop shopping for vehicle information," said Transportation Minister Gilles Pouliot.

The package will be available at more than 300 Driver and Vehicle Licence Issuing Offices in the province and at the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.


"This package will give the consumer more information about the vehicle which will help in making an informed decision. It does not include a mechanical history of the vehicle, but it will let the buyer know how many previous owners there have been and if there are any outstanding debts registered against the vehicle," says Marilyn Churley, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

For more information on the payment of the RST or the vehicle transfer package, call 1-800-263-7965.

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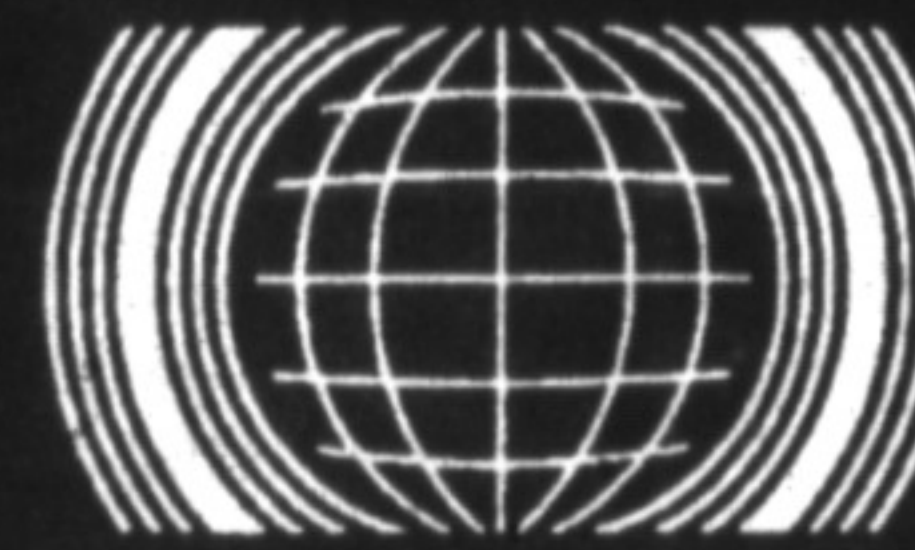
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