



Investigation File No.: C-25-11-373
C-26-03-499
Hearing File No.: H-26-03-003
H-26-04-004

**IN THE MATTER OF *THE MOTOR DEALER ACT*, R.S.B.C. 1998, c.316 and
THE BUSINESS PRACTICES AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, S.B.C. 2004, c.2**

BETWEEN:

THE MOTOR VEHICLE SALES AUTHORITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE AUTHORITY

AND:

KARAN SHARMA

RESPONDENT/SALESPERSON

**DECISION OF THE REGISTRAR OF MOTOR DEALERS
RE: COSTS**

Date and location of decision: July 13, 2026, at Langley, British Columbia

By way of written submissions

1. In written reasons dated July 2, 2026 ("the Decision"), I found that Karan Sharma contravened various provisions of the *Motor Dealer Act* ("MDA") and the *Motor Dealer Act Regulation* ("MDAR"). I ordered the immediate revocation of Mr. Sharma's salesperson license and I set the period that the Registrar would not accept a new application for licensing from Mr. Sharma at five years. I deferred consideration of whether a Compliance Order should be issued in respect of the Authority's claim for reimbursement of its actual costs, including actual legal costs, pending receipt of written submissions from the Authority. Mr. Sharma did not take part in the hearing and as such his submissions concerning costs were not sought.
2. The Authority's position is that Mr. Sharma should be ordered to pay 100% of its costs. In support of this position, the Authority has provided an affidavit sworn July 10, 2026 from its Manager of Investigations and Licensing, Tim Gallo, who deposes that the Authority's

costs total \$4,599.20. Attached to Mr. Gallo's affidavit is an "Investigation Cost Recovery" invoice which itemizes the Authority's costs as consisting of investigation costs totaling \$1,052.51 and legal fees totaling \$3,546.70.

3. The legislative authority for an order reimbursing the Authority's costs is section 26.02(4)(d) of the MDA which provides that the Registrar may include in a compliance order an order that a person reimburse all or part of the Registrar's actual costs, including actual legal costs, incurred for the inspection or investigation of the person. This provision operates as a reimbursement mechanism as opposed to a means by which a party may seek costs in a civil litigation context through a system of tariffs.
4. As I previously noted in *VSABC et al v. Super Choice Auto Ltd. dba Lucky Stars Auto et al* (H-25-07-002, December 10, 2025), the decision in *Re: Wild Grizzly Transport Ltd.*, 2018-BCRMD-022 provides guidance in determining the quantum of costs as follows:

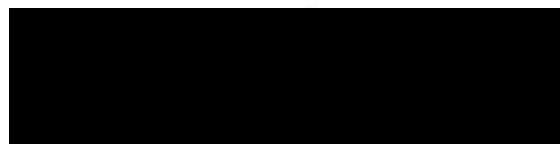
[12] The request for costs must be reasonable. The legislative authority to recover actual costs is not a blank cheque to incur any costs. The requested costs should reflect the work necessary to prove the allegations in the case and bring it forward. Considerations would include but are not limited to:

- (a) The complexity of the case and the need for outside expert assistance such as a forensic accountant.
- (b) The depth of the case. Was the investigation over a one-time breach or multiple breaches of the legislation. Did the investigation involve one or multiple consumers/complainants? Did the investigation require reviewing several months or years of transaction/documentary records?
- (c) The number of witnesses interviewed or who testified.
- (d) The amount of documentary evidence necessary to bring the case forward.
- (e) The need to create explanatory material to make sense of and to present the evidence; such as charges, diagrams, and accounting spreadsheets.
- (f) The need for the Registrar to issue interim orders to compel the disclosure of evidence

5. This was a case of moderate complexity and combined two separate files for hearing. A Pre-Hearing Conference was required and the Authority relied on two witnesses during the written hearing. From the outset of this matter, Mr. Sharma played no role as he did not respond to correspondence and he did not respond to the Authority's submissions. Each of the contraventions alleged by the Authority were proven at hearing.
6. Having considered all the circumstances, I am satisfied that the costs as presented by the Authority are reasonable in the circumstances and I therefor order that Mr. Sharma reimburse the Authority's actual costs, including actual legal costs, in the amount of \$4,599.20. A Compliance Order will be issued in that regard.
7. This decision may be reconsidered pursuant to sections 26.11 and 26.12 of the MDA. A Request for Reconsideration must be submitted in writing within 30 days of receiving the compliance order. The request may be filed electronically to hearings@vsabc.ca or by mail to the Authority.
8. This decision may also be reviewed by petition to the BC Supreme Court pursuant to the *Judicial Review Procedure Act* within 60 days of receiving this decision: section 7.1 of the MDA and section 57 of the *Administrative Tribunals Act*.

"Original signed"

Signed this 13th day of July, 2026

A large black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the Registrar.

Patrick Poyner
Registrar of Motor Dealers