



INSURANCE

Matters

I'M GETTING RIPPED OFF!!

The growl of those eight fine tuned cylinders. An exhaust system that's borderline legal. It's all music to your ears! Your Mustang has been locked up all winter with no one to put her through her paces. But all that is about to change!

Suddenly you see 1000 lbs of "Grade A" beef in your lane. You brake but it's no use. You realize these country roads don't mix well with speed. Thankfully only your pride is hurt, but your baby is rendered a total loss.

Fortunately, you purchased collision insurance coverage but you can't believe your insurer is only willing to pay \$8,500.00 for your car. You bought it for \$10,500.00 only last year and have spent at least \$2,500.00 on top of that for parts and labour. You feel that you're getting ripped off! What can you do?

If your coverage is with ICBC you can refuse their settlement offer and request that the valuation be reviewed through an internal review hearing. At the hearing, you can present your case as to the true market value of your car. This can include submitting invoices for recent repairs and modifications, as well as calling witnesses from the automobile industry or perhaps a mechanic to give evidence of your cars real value. A review panel appointed by ICBC will then value your loss.

If you're still not satisfied with the amount offered for your vehicle you could start a court action against your insurer. In the lawsuit, you would seek a judgement for the amount you think your car is really worth. A Judge would then decide.*



BY MERV SADDEN

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