We take the safety concerns raised in your letter very seriously, however, this is the first time, to our knowledge, that such an issue as the potential instability of a vehicle fitted with winter tires has been raised. This is a serious allegation that we intend to fully assess.

In order to begin our assessment we would appreciate it if you or your engineering consultant could provide all available data, records of testing, theoretical calculations, or other information, which supports the allegation that the type of vehicle in question becomes unstable when fitted with winter tires in all wheel positions. Other than the allegation made in your letter, we are currently unaware of any other complaints regarding the stability of such vehicles when used with winter tires in all wheel positions.

Transport Canada is currently examining the option of physical testing of MFAVs. Hence, we would welcome the participation of the Government of N.B., including your MFAVs, in such testing. Time is of the essence since we are already over a month into the cold season and Transport Canada would need lead time to work out the logistics and estimate the incidental costs of this project. In the interest of transparency and in light of the public profile of this subject, other interested stakeholders would also be informed about any testing that may be pursued. If you wish to work with Transport Canada on this front, I request that your designated official contact [redacted] at Transport Canada, for further discussion. [redacted] can be reached at [redacted] or by email at [redacted] Transport Canada would also like to receive information on the make-up of your MFAV fleet (makes, models, model year, number of wheels and wheel sizes, Gross Vehicle Weight Rating, etc.).

Until there is convincing evidence to the contrary, Transport Canada will continue to highly recommend the use of winter tires, designated with the mountain snowflake symbol, on all wheel positions when such tires are available in the prescribed tire size, for optimum vehicle performance in winter conditions. Again, this applies to the varied driving duty that is required of all motor vehicles.

I hope that the foregoing has been beneficial and we look forward to your response.

[redacted] I am sorry I could not speak to you directly earlier this week. Thanks - [redacted]

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Safety and Security

Reference: With regard to understeer versus oversteer, the diagrams in the following Web-page help make the distinction:
http://www.koni.com/323+M562c0c96d4c.html