

Ministry of Infrastructure

Ministère de l'Infrastructure

Ministry of
Transportation

Ministère des
Transports

Office of the Minister

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Mr. Chris Klimek
contact@stop100.ca

Dear Mr. Klimek:

Thank you for your e-mails regarding increased speed limits on our highways. I appreciate your thoughts on this important issue and I welcome the opportunity to respond.

Ontario has the safest roads in North America and we are working hard to ensure they stay this way. The latest Ontario statistics available indicate that our traffic fatality rate of 0.62 per 10,000 licensed drivers is the lowest ever recorded in Ontario, and the lowest in North America.

Despite this achievement, speed is still a major factor in collisions, injuries and fatalities on Ontario roads. In 2009, speed contributed to 20 per cent of all fatalities (113 of 564) and 10 per cent of all injuries (6,409 of 62,562) due to motor vehicle collisions in Ontario. To clarify, this statistic conveys the number of people killed in speed-related collisions in Ontario. Table 2.8 of the Ontario Annual Road Safety Report (ORSAR), which you reference in your e-mail, reflects the number of drivers involved in fatal, personal injury and property damage collisions.

Considerable research has been conducted on the effects of changing the posted speed limit, particularly in the U.S. Experience in other jurisdictions generally indicates that fatal collisions increase with higher speed limits and that average speeds increase when speed limits are raised.

Additionally, in order to mitigate the safety impact of increasing speed limits, major changes to the highway infrastructure would be required, including improving clear zones, guide rails, end treatments, crash protection devices, adding fully paved shoulders with rumble strips, and gentler side slopes for vehicle recovery. While some jurisdictions in Canada have raised speed limits above 100 kilometres per hour (km/h) on sections of their major highways, most of these jurisdictions have significantly different road environments and traffic volumes from what we have in Ontario.

Therefore, at this time, we have no plans to change the posted speed limit on our highways. However, as part of the ministry's commitment to improve road safety, we regularly review our policies and practices to see if they are in keeping with current research findings and best practices worldwide. This includes periodically reviewing Ontario's speed limits to make sure that they are appropriate, taking into account factors such as road design, traffic volumes and collision trends.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to our attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Chiarelli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Bob Chiarelli
Minister