



CANOE



THE HOTTEST SHOW ON ICE



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Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Poll puts pedal to the metal

Survey backs speed limit hike

By [ANTONELLA ARTUSO](#), QUEEN'S PARK
BUREAU CHIEF

Almost half of Ontarians polled recently believe the speed limit should be increased to 120 km/h on 400-series highways.

And support for the higher speed limit increases to 58% of all Ontarians with the introduction of photo radar and zero tolerance.

Forty-seven per cent of those polled by SES Research favoured the hike, while 50% thought the current speed limit of 100 km/h was adequate.

Nikita Nanos, managing director of SES Research, said men and women differed significantly in their responses.

The poll found that 63% of men support the speed increase, while 65% of women are opposed, he said.

When photo radar is included, support for the 120 km/h speed limit doubled among women but actually decreased in men.

"Men just want to drive faster, period," Nanos said. "Women are more concerned about having some kind of control on the speed."

SES Research found that 31% of men strongly oppose photo

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radar, compared to just 24% of women.

Nanos said men and women could agree on one issue -- that transport trucks on the 400 series of highways should have a speed limit 10 km/h lower than regular cars. Seven out of every 10 Ontarians polled favoured a lower speed limit for trucks.

Transportation Minister Norm Sterling recently told reporters that the issue of speed limits is periodically reviewed by the government.

The poll, conducted Sept. 10-13, interviewed 500 eligible voters across Ontario, and is considered accurate to within plus or minus 4.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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