

The Premier
of Ontario

Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Le Premier ministre
de l'Ontario

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative
Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1A1



December 17, 2008

Mr. Darryl Bowles
Families Fighting Careless Driving
19 Falconridge Drive
Hamilton, Ontario
L9B 2P2

Dear Mr. Bowles:

Thank you for your letter regarding your campaign to change the legislation relating to careless driving. I appreciate your taking the time to write to me on this important issue.

I was deeply saddened to hear about your loss and want to express my most sincere condolences to you and your family. I commend you for honouring the memory of your loved one through your efforts to raise awareness of the dangers of careless driving.

As you may know, careless driving and similar offences fall under the *Criminal Code* of Canada. Accordingly, you may also wish to bring your views to the attention of the Department of Justice Canada by writing directly to the Honourable Robert Nicholson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, at 284 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H8.

The Government of Ontario will not tolerate dangerous driving on our roads, and we remain committed to furthering the legacy of measures we have already put in place.

Ontario has passed progressive driver safety-focused legislation and introduced new programs designed to provide young drivers with the right skills for a lifetime of safe driving. In September 2007, Ontario introduced a new Beginner Driver Education curriculum to ensure that driver training schools comply with provincial standards and that driving instructors adhere to the licensing standards.

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The new curriculum focuses on today's driving environment, emphasizing skills to deal with speeding, and distracted or aggressive driving. Each year in Ontario, more than 100,000 students graduate from a ministry-approved course. More than 700,000 students have graduated from ministry-approved courses since June 2000.

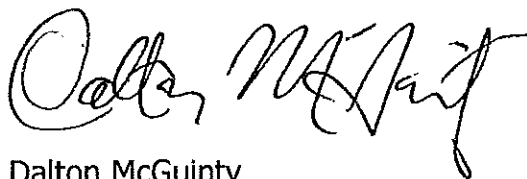
The *Safer Roads for a Safer Ontario Act*, introduced in April 2007, keeps street racers and drinking drivers off our roads. Today, drivers caught racing or stunt driving face an immediate, seven-day driver's licence suspension and vehicle impoundment at the roadside. In addition, our government has introduced longer licence suspensions for drivers who blow in the "warn range" - having a blood alcohol content of 0.05 to 0.08.

Our government also introduced legislation on October 28 that will, if passed, make it illegal to use a hand-held cell phone, send e-mail or text messages, or use other hand-held electronic devices while driving. Transport Canada estimates that driver distraction is a contributing factor in about 20 per cent of all collisions. A driver who uses a cell phone when behind the wheel is about four times more likely to be in a crash than a driver who is focused on the road.

Ontario's roads are among the safest in North America. We remain committed to working with police, municipalities and our other road safety partners to further improve on this record.

Mr. Bowles, thank you again for writing and please accept my best wishes.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dalton McGuinty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dalton" being more prominent and the last name "McGuinty" following in a similar style.

Dalton McGuinty
Premier