

OTA Speed Limiter Policy Makes Front Page News

(January 18, 2006) – OTA's proposal for mandatory activation of speed limiters on all commercial transport trucks that operate into, out of and within the province, was top of the news yesterday.

The proposed policy is presently being studied by the Ministry of Transportation. Media interest in what some have called the "bold" OTA policy was touched off by a front-page news story that ran in the Jan. 17 edition of the *Toronto Star* (see link to article below). The story, which was also carried by the *Canadian Press* wire service, prompted calls from reporters that kept the lines to OTA's communications department jammed throughout the day.

OTA President David Bradley appeared on several television stations talking about the innovative policy and conducted one media interview after another with radio and newspaper reporters across the province and even the United States. More interviews are slated for today. Many of the radio stations conducted listener polls on the policy.

The policy calls upon the provincial government to require all trucks that operate into, out of and within Ontario to activate the speed limiters, sometimes referred to as governors, and to set the highest speed a truck could go to no more than 105 kph. (A speed limiter is a built-in microchip that allows a truck engine's top speed to be preset. Almost all trucks built in North America over the last decade come equipped with this technology.)

The OTA proposal has won support from groups like Pollution Probe, CAA Ontario, the Canada Safety Council, Traffic Injury Research Foundation, SMARTRISK, RoadWatch, Markel Insurance Company of Canada, Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada, and the Transportation Health & Safety Association of Ontario.

It should be pointed out that the Owner-Operator Business Association of Canada (OBAC) is opposing the policy.

In addition, the policy is catching on with provincial trucking associations on Canada. In a press release issued by the Canadian Trucking Alliance on Monday, it was indicated that while CTA has yet to formally ratify a policy, six of the seven provincial associations have expressed their support, though some local issues need to be ironed out. The Quebec Trucking Association has yet to respond, but is in the midst of surveying its members.

Links to some of today's media coverage:

Toronto Star story: "Truckers Face Speed Limits" -- [See more](#)