

Our File/N/Réf. **50 20-98-0001 / 02-98-0026**
Your File/V/Réf.

<p><u>Information Previously Distributed</u> To be listed on the Transportation Committee Agenda 18 Mar 98</p>
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DATE 24 February 1998

TO/DEST. The Chair and Members of Council

FROM/EXP. Environment and Transportation Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET **RED LIGHT CAMERAS**

The information indicated in the attached letter to the Regional Engineers Association is that the Province is maintaining its position on camera enforcement of violations.

This is in contrast to the Province's promotion of camera enforcement of toll collection on the 407.

Red Light Cameras have demonstrated their usefulness in many countries around the world as an effective means of reducing accidents, injuries and fatalities.

The efforts should continue to have the Province change its position on this valuable enforcement technology.

Approved by
M. J. E. Sheflin, P. Eng.

MJES/clc

Attach. (1)

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February 10, 1998

Mr. Michael J.E. Sheflin
Regional Engineers Association
Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton
111 Lisgar Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 2L7

Dear Mr. Sheflin:

Thank you for your letter of November 26, 1997, advocating the use of photo enforcement technology (red-light cameras) at intersections.

I, too, am concerned about unsafe driving behaviour, including drivers who disobey red lights at intersections, along with other aggressive driving behaviours, such as speeding, tailgating, unsafe lane changes and impaired driving.

It is critical that the driver be directly apprehended and held responsible for his or her actions. Photo enforcement technologies target the licence plate of the vehicle, and thus are directed at the vehicle owner, rather than the driver. Evidence difficulties may arise where the vehicle owner is unable or unwilling to identify the driver. As a result, prosecution of the owner may provide an opportunity for the driver to avoid ministry education programs or sanctions, such as fines, demerit points or licence suspensions.

As part of our Road Safety Plan, numerous initiatives have been developed and implemented to improve safety such as increased fines for some violations, increased enforcement of traffic laws and support for safety education efforts. We continue to work on the development of additional initiatives to further advance the objectives that ensure compliance with existing laws, encourage public education and awareness, and enhance enforcement.

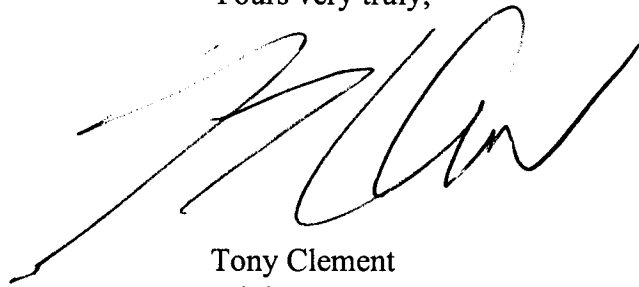
I know a few municipalities have indicated they intend to implement a red light camera program as a pilot project and issue warning letters to offenders. However, this government is not supportive of the use of automated photo enforcement technologies, and has no plans at the present time to introduce legislation permitting its use.

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The Ministry of Transportation continues to advocate that all drivers comply with the posted speed limit and encourages other safe driving practices, including signalling lane changes, obeying stop signs and signals, yielding the right-of-way, and avoiding aggressive driving habits.

Thank you for bringing your concerns, and those of the Regional Engineers Association, to my attention.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Clement', written in a cursive style.

Tony Clement
Minister