

## **What You Should Do When You Are Stopped By the Police**

- Pull over safely, using your turning signal. Pull far enough off the road to provide the officer a safer area in which to approach you.
- Make sure your seatbelt is buckled. Do not unbuckle until the officer has approached and is talking to you. If you were not wearing your seatbelt, don't bother putting it on now. The officer has already noticed that you weren't wearing it.
- If it is night, turn on the vehicle's interior lights. The officer will appreciate this.
- You do not have the right to remain silent. You must appropriately identify yourself, but far too often you will say more than you need to.
- Have your licence, ownership and insurance ready.
- If the officer asks your permission to search your vehicle, unless he has a legitimate excuse, it is OK to say no. If the officer chooses to search without your permission, the officer may have to explain and justify it in court.
- If you get a ticket, take a few minutes to make notes of: the weather conditions; the distance from where the officer first started following you to where you stopped; who was with you in the car; your speed; the speed of the other traffic; and note as best as you can both sides of the conversation between you and the officer.

If you have been recently charged with a traffic related offence in Ontario, please contact

**XPOLICE**  
**1-888-XPOLICE**  
**1-888-976-5423**