Pre-Reading

1. As a class, discuss the following questions.

1. What are some common things people do while driving? Give examples.
2. Which do you think is the most dangerous? Why?
3. Which of these activities do you think should be banned?
4. What should be the penalties for engaging in these activities while driving?

2. Before you read the article on the next page, look at the headlines and the lead (the first few lines of the news article) below. Discuss the questions.

Keep your eyes on the road and hands on the wheel

THE McGuinty GOVERNMENT PROPOSES BAN ON HAND-HELD DEVICES WHILE DRIVING

October 28, 2008

Ontario is proposing a ban on the use of hand-held devices to talk, text or email while driving. Under a bill to be introduced this afternoon, police would be able to charge drivers who use a hand-held cell phone, send email or text messages, or use other hand-held electronic devices while driving.

1. Read the large headline. Does it say what the article is going to be about? Do you think it attracts readers? Why?
2. Read the smaller headline and the lead. The lead usually tells us the most important parts of the story and answers the who, what, where and when questions. What is this article going to be about?
3. Do you already have an opinion about it? What is it?
4. Discuss the meanings of the following words in the lead. Refer to a dictionary if needed.
   - McGuinty government
   - propose
   - ban
   - bill
Keep your eyes on the road and hands on the wheel

McGuinty Government Proposes Ban on Hand-held Devices While Driving

October 28, 2008

Ontario is proposing a ban on the use of hand-held devices used to talk, text or email while driving. Under a bill to be introduced this afternoon, police would be able to charge drivers who use a hand-held cell phone, send email or text messages, or use other hand-held electronic devices while driving.

The proposed legislation applies only to hand-held wireless devices. The use of hands-free devices would still be permitted. That means drivers will still be able to use devices that can be operated in a “hands-free” manner, such as cell phone with an earpiece or headset, a global positioning system (GPS) device that is properly secured to the dashboard, or a portable media player that has been plugged into the vehicle’s sound system.

Emergency calls, such as 911, would still be permitted.

Transport Canada estimates that driver distraction is a contributing factor in about 20 per cent of collisions. A driver who uses a cell phone is four times more likely to be in a crash than one who is focused on the road.

Drivers who place others at risk as a result of using a hands-held device may be charged with careless driving and face fines of up to $1,000, six demerit points, a driver’s licence suspension and possible jail time.

The proposed legislation would bring Ontario in line with similar laws in Quebec, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, several U.S. states and about 50 countries worldwide.

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Vocabulary Building

3 Using the context of the article, explain what the following words from the article mean. Check your answers in a dictionary. Answer the questions that follow.

1. to text (par. 1): ________________________________
   Do you text? If yes, who do you text and how often?

2. hand-held; hands-free (par. 2): ________________________________
   What hand-held small appliances do you use in your home?
   Do you have any hands-free devices? What are they?

3. demerit points (par. 5): ________________________________
   What other traffic violations do you think drivers will get demerit points for in Ontario?

4. distraction (par. 4): ________________________________
   What are some distractions that drivers may experience when commuting to work?

5. risk (par. 5): ________________________________
   Name things that can pose an accident risk on the street in your neighbourhood.

4 The following sentences from the article include some phrases that may be difficult to understand when you read them for the first time. Explain in your own words what they mean.

1. Under a bill to be introduced this afternoon, police would be able to charge drivers … (par. 1)

2. The use of hands-free devices would still be permitted. (par. 2)

3. Transport Canada estimates that driver distraction is a contributing factor … (par. 4)

4. A driver who uses a cell phone is four times more likely to be in a crash than a driver who is focused on the road. (par. 4)

5. The proposed legislation would bring Ontario in line with similar laws in Quebec … (par. 6)
The following table includes words from the text. Complete the table with the missing words (noun or verb form).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOUN</th>
<th>VERB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>collision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suspension</td>
<td>permit</td>
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<tr>
<td>distraction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>legislation</td>
<td>contribute</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using a thesaurus

A thesaurus is a dictionary of synonyms. Thesauri come in print, in online form and as part of word processing programs. This thesaurus entry is from an online thesaurus, www.thesaurus.com. Most thesauri provide information about which part of speech the word is and list its synonyms and antonyms. Sometimes they also give a definition of the word. You can use a thesaurus to find a replacement if you don’t want to repeat the same word many times, or to check the meaning of the word and its antonyms.

Main Entry: law
Part of speech: noun
Definition: rules of government, society
Synonyms: act, bylaw, canon, legislation, mandate, order, regulation

In the article, find the words that are synonyms of the words listed below. Use a thesaurus if needed.

1. law (par. 6)
2. allowed (par. 3)
3. way (par. 2)
4. car crashes (par. 4)
5. imprisonment (par. 5)
6. suggesting (par. 1)
Comprehension

7 A news article usually answers the questions who, what, why, where, and when. Reread the article and answer the questions below.

1. What are the details of the bill described in the article? What is going to be permitted, and what would not be permitted? What will happen to a driver who breaks this law?
2. Which three Canadian provinces mentioned in the article already have this law?
3. When was the bill proposed?
4. Why was this bill proposed?

Giving Opinions

8 Audio 5.2: Listen to four people give their opinion about the bill. Check each speaker's opinion (for or against) and write down the main reason(s) for his/her opinion. Then use your notes to re-tell what each caller said.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supporting arguments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jenny: ☐ for ☐ against</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill: ☐ for ☐ against</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne: ☐ for ☐ against</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armand: ☐ for ☐ against</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 In groups, discuss whether or not you support this bill. As a group, decide whether to support or oppose the proposed law, and prepare reasons for this position. Have a spokesperson present the opinion and reasons to the class.