The Traffic Injury Research Foundation surveyed more than 2,500 Canadian drivers about Self-Driving Vehicles (SDVs).

Safety concerns
Here’s what drivers had to say: A majority of drivers are concerned about the proven safety of SDVs and will wait to see how these vehicles perform in real world conditions before using one.

1 in 3 drivers (28%) would feel safe driving an SDV.
A majority (70%) would not use a limited self-driving vehicle today if it were available.

Misperceptions
Misperceptions about capabilities of SDVs will negatively influence driver behaviour:

16% of Canadians did not think they would need to pay attention to driving.

1/3 of drivers believe an SDV can perform better than them in an emergency or bad weather.

Anticipated Driving Habits
Drivers anticipate their driving habits would become less safe in an SDV:

Drivers would turn off the self-driving features if the style of driving does not match their preferences.

Drivers would pay less attention and take more risks on the road:
- 24% would drive drowsy
- 17% would drive distracted
- 10% would nap at the wheel
- 9% would drive impaired

If drivers were running late for an appointment:
- 35% would turn off SDV systems to speed
- 13% would turn it off to run red lights

Get the facts
- SDVs still require drivers to quickly take over driving in complex road environments when vehicles cannot process information from sensors.
- SDVs cannot currently perform consistently in high-risk driving conditions when drivers would most like to use them.
- SDVs can only navigate on roads that are precisely mapped using specialized GPS technology (much more detailed than regular GPS).
- SDVs are not yet able to drive in rain or snow, poor road conditions, or construction zones.

Education is essential to inform drivers about the limits of self-driving vehicle technology, and the need to continue to pay attention behind the wheel.

Visit brainonboard.ca to learn more.