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## Mel feels the need for speed (dating)

Suzanne's friend suggested they try a round of speed dating, one of the most popular ways for singles to meet in recent years. "There's no way in hell!" was Suzanne's response.

No way in hell she'd try it, nor think she'd ever meet the man of her dreams that way. I thought the same thing when one of my friends asked if I'd ever give it a try.

Six Minute Dates is one of Calgary's fastest growing speed dating company, with 11 marriages that they know of so far in just under three years of business.



Mel

### Risdon

#### The Sexes

"It'll be a room full of lonely, pathetic people," I thought as I skeptically signed up online for an event for those aged 25 to 35 (they offer events for other age groups, too). I arrived at the Good Earth Cafe on Steven Avenue (where all Six Minute Dates events are held) early that Thursday evening and found myself staring at my shoes. I didn't want to look around for fear I wouldn't see anyone remotely interesting and thus my evening would be shot before it even began.

I was greeted by the host, given a name tag with my first name and last initial on it and a drink voucher. Ladies were to the right and guys to the left, by design.

Looking at the ladies, I realized: "Wow, these are really beautiful and well-put-together ladies." (Still too nervous to scope the guys at this point).

We were given a sheet of paper with an area to write in the names of all 12 guys and girls; an area for notes; and an area to mark down whether we sought further contact with that particular person. Matches are only made when two people pick each other.

The evening was divided into two rounds of six dates (six minutes, of course). With the ring of the bell we were off.

Each date went by in the blink of an eye and those six little minutes seemed either far too long or far too short, depending on each guy. But the fellas, to my surprise, were all professionals and, for the most part, were also well-put-together.

Although I didn't meet anyone that piqued my interest that night, it did turn out to be an interesting evening. Better than the last time I hit any club or bar.

See, everyone's there for the same reason: To meet new people. And it's a safe environment to do so with virtually no pressure.

So back to Suzanne, our skeptic from the start. Her views of speed dating turned around after her first and only event.

"I wasn't expecting the calibre of guys that were there," the 30-year-old says. "They were all so professional and good looking."

And good husband material, apparently.

Suzanne and Tim (they didn't want their last names used) are now engaged.

See? A night out with 10 to 12 good-looking professionals can truly be as fun and rewarding as it sounds.

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