



# Canadian Road Safety News Digest

A monthly compilation of national, provincial and local news stories on road safety

For the Period March 1-31, 2019

## Province announces mandatory entry-level training for commercial truck drivers

March 26, 2019, Government of Manitoba (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

As part of the Manitoba government's commitment to public safety, mandatory entry-level training for commercial truck drivers will be implemented Sept. 1, Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler announced today. Requirements will include 121.5 hours of training, which is consistent with other provinces including Alberta and Saskatchewan.

"Our government is focused on public safety on our roads and highways in this province, and mandatory training for new truck drivers will make Manitoba safer," Schuler said. "Commercial truck drivers play an important role in moving our economy forward, and we are focused on ensuring they have the necessary skills and qualifications to do their job in a way that ensures everyone is safe on the road."

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## Mounties seeing smaller number of blood samples than expected under drug-impaired driving law

March 24, 2019, CBC News (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police were expecting to see their national forensic labs flooded with requests for blood tests after Canada's new impaired driving law came into effect, but they've seen just a small number so far.

The force's National Forensic Laboratory Services operation receives bodily fluid samples, including blood and urine, that require forensic toxicology analysis to hold up in court.

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## Mayor John Tory open to lowering speed limits in Toronto

March 20, 2019, Globe and Mail (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Toronto Mayor John Tory has signalled he is open to broad-based reductions in speed limits on the city's major roads and more red-light cameras, indicating that he will ask staff for a report looking at ways to reduce the number of pedestrian deaths.

The move by Mr. Tory comes nearly three years after the city introduced a Vision Zero road safety plan aimed at eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries. Municipal politicians have added funding to the plan several times, but critics say it has not brought about a meaningful change in the number of people being hurt and killed. According to a Globe and Mail tally, 46 pedestrians and cyclists were fatally struck in Toronto last year, six more than in 2017.

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## Impaired Driving Prevention Week Encourages Canadians To Always Drive Sober

March 18, 2019, MADD Canada (OAKVILLE, ONTARIO)

March 17 - 23 is National Impaired Driving Prevention Week across Canada. MADD Canada joins governments, law enforcement agencies and community organizations in raising awareness about the risks and consequences of impaired driving.

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## OTA announces 2019-2020 Road Knight Team

March 18, 2019, Truck News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The Ontario Trucking Association (OTA) is proud to knight seven exceptional professional truck drivers who will travel the province, promoting the industry to the media as well as sharing their experiences and knowledge of the trucking industry and highway safety with students and community groups.

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## **SGI aims to measure impaired driving rates through roadside survey**

March 15, 2019, CTV News (SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN)

Saskatchewan's provincial insurance company is looking to paint a real-world picture of the prevalence of drug and alcohol impairment by conducting roadside tests and surveys.

On March 7, SGI issued a request for proposals for a study looking at drug and alcohol impairment on Saskatchewan roadways. SGI is looking for a third-party data collection firm to assist in conducting roadside surveys and compiling a report detailing the findings.

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## **Transport Canada awards contract to ESCRYP to enhance the privacy and security of connected vehicles**

March 14, 2019, Transport Canada (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The Government of Canada welcomes innovation that will help to create Canada's transportation system of tomorrow. That is why Transport Canada's program to Advance Connectivity and Automation in the Transportation System (ACATS) is helping Canadian jurisdictions prepare for connected and automated vehicles.

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## **Mandatory minimum standardized training requirements for commercial semi drivers**

March 14, 2019, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

New mandatory standardized training requirements take effect tomorrow for those wanting a Class 1 commercial licence in Saskatchewan to drive semi trucks.

The changes were announced in December by Minister Responsible for SGI Joe Hargrave, after consultation with those in the trucking industry, training schools, additional stakeholders and other jurisdictions. Changes were the culmination of work SGI began mid-2017 to improve standards for training of commercial semi drivers.

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## 2019 on the right road to reducing fatalities – below average crash count for last 10 years

March 14, 2019, MPI (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

In the first two months of 2019, preliminary counts report five people killed on public roadways in Manitoba. This total is significantly lower (62 per cent) than the same time frame in 2018 – a total of 13 people.

Over the last decade, the first two months of 2019 are well below the average of 10 people killed, according to Manitoba Public Insurance data.

Of note, there were no off-road vehicle (ORV) fatalities in the first two months of 2019. In the same period of 2018 there were three ORV fatalities.

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## Winnipeg-based road safety engineers studying near misses to prevent collisions

March 11, 2019, CTV News (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Many drivers have stories about near-miss collisions or situations where a crash was narrowly avoided -- information that's invaluable to experts who are looking at it more and more to help make roads safer. It's a technique being used right here in Manitoba to give traffic engineers a glimpse into the future and intervene before it's too late.

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## Montreal to reduce speed limits to improve pedestrian safety

March 11, 2019, CTV News (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

The city of Montreal is cutting speed limits on many major streets to 40 km/h in the next three years.

It's the latest step in the Vision Zero plan to eliminate collisions between drivers and pedestrians and cyclists that Montreal launched several years ago. At the announcement Monday, Mayor Valerie Plante said everyone who uses the road needs to be attentive to other road users because traffic is only going to increase as the population grows.

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## Canada and Saskatchewan Support Highway Improvements to Ensure Safer and More Efficient Transportation for Residents

March 11, 2019, Government of Saskatchewan (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

Investing in modern transportation infrastructure is critical to connecting communities, helping businesses move their goods to customer markets, and building a strong economy for all Canadians.

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## Drivers say automakers are putting lives at risk by not recalling engines known to fail or catch fire

March 6, 2019, CBC News (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

A Vancouver family is blaming a big car company after experiencing heart-stopping engine failure on a B.C. highway – a life-threatening emergency they say could have been avoided if Hyundai hadn't delayed a safety recall for years.

In January, John Killoran was driving on the snowy Coquihalla Highway in B.C. with his wife, Danielle Collette, and their baby boy when the engine shut off without warning while they were travelling at 120 km/h.

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## Alberta Motor Transport Association opens state-of-the-art safety training facility to improve commercial driver training

March 6, 2019, Newswire (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

Alberta Motor Transport Association (AMTA) hosted the grand opening of its state-of-the-art safety training facility at the Edmonton International Airport (EIA) Airport City site today. The facility will function as a commercial transportation hub for safety training development and delivery, research and technology innovation and will play a key role in strengthening education for commercial drivers across the province.

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## Torontonians want lower speed limits, photo radar, and more bike lanes, poll suggests

March 5, 2019, Toronto Star (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Torontonians overwhelmingly support lower speed limits, photo radar to force motorists to slow down, and more bike lanes, a new poll has found.

But the Campaign Research survey conducted for the Star found that most people were unaware of Mayor John Tory's five-year \$100-million Vision Zero road safety push to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on city streets by 2021.

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## Increased fines and demerits target unsafe driving

March 5, 2019, Yukon Government (WHITEHORSE, YUKON)

The Government of Yukon is taking action to address illegal and dangerous driving behaviour around school buses by increasing fines and demerits under the Summary Convictions Regulation and Motor Vehicles Regulations.

Fines for drivers who fail to stop for a school bus that is receiving or discharging passengers have increased to \$500 from \$200. Fines for drivers who pass a bus illegally will also face a fine of \$500, increased from \$200. Demerit points for both offences have increased from five to eight points.

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## Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan

March 4, 2019, Government of B.C. (VICTORIA, B.C.)

People in northern B.C. are benefiting from new transportation services offered under the Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan, knowing there is a safe link to get between communities.

In Budget 2019, the Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan has received another \$800,000, bringing the total investment to \$8.1 million.

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## Have your say to make communities more walkable, bike friendly

March 2, 2019, Government of B.C. (VICTORIA, B.C.)

British Columbians are encouraged to share their ideas to make walking, cycling and other kinds of active transportation safer, easier and more attractive.

“We know that people are looking for ways to get around without having to use their cars,” said Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. “We’re keen to hear what people think about building better, safer and smarter active transportation networks that work for people of all ages and abilities.”

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## Canadian Events & Conferences in 2019 & 2020

### **Motorcycles OK Forum – Motorcycles as a Solution**

Vancouver, BC  
May 1, 2019  
[Learn more...](#)

### **CCMTA Annual Meeting**

Ottawa, Ontario  
June 2-5, 2019  
[Learn more...](#)

### **22<sup>nd</sup> ICADTS Conference**

Edmonton, Alberta  
August 18-21, 2019  
[Learn more...](#)

### **Delft Road Safety Course**

Delft University of Technology  
The Netherlands  
September 8-20, 2019  
[Learn more...](#)

### **Road Safety & Simulation Conference**

Iowa City, Iowa  
October 14-17, 2019  
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### **CCMTA Annual Meeting**

Charlottetown, PEI  
May 31-June 3, 2020  
[Learn more...](#)

### **6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Highway Geometric Design**

Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
June 28-July 1, 2020  
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