



# Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period May 1-31, 2019

## **New SGI campaign highlights perils of distracted driving**

May 30, 2019, Global News (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

“This is supposed to happen in movies, not in real life.”

Sandra LaRose knows too well the dangers of distracted driving.

Her daughter, Kailynn Bursic-Panchuk, was preoccupied with her cellphone when she drove into the path of a train on Oct. 16, 2018, near Weyburn, Sask.

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## **Montreal police force lets jaywalkers choose their punishment as part of road safety campaign**

May 30, 2019, Global News (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

Montreal pedestrians who were caught crossing at a red light near Lionel-Groulx and Charlevoix Metro stations on Thursday were given an unusual choice – to pay the \$48 fine or to register for an information session about road safety.

The pardon is part of Montreal police’s Troque ton Ticket public awareness campaign aimed at reducing the number of accidents on city streets.

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## Mainstream autos get driver-monitoring devices

May 29, 2019, CTV News (DETROIT, MICHIGAN)

Would you pay more for a car or SUV that warns you if you're falling asleep or not paying attention behind the wheel?

Auto companies are figuring that because your life could depend on it, you will. As safety features such as automatic emergency braking and lane-centring make their way from luxury vehicles down to lower-cost rides for the masses, distracted driver alert systems are coming with them.

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## Slow Down, Move Over, It's the Law

May 29, 2019, Government of Manitoba (HEADINGLEY, MANITOBA)

Motorists in Manitoba will be reminded with a new set of highway signs they are required to 'Slow Down, Move Over' when passing roadside emergency scenes and police activity, Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler announced here today.

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## Conference on traffic safety aims to make Calgary's roads safer for everyone

May 27, 2019, CTV News (CALGARY, ALBERTA)

Calgary is hosting dozens of professionals from across Canada and around the world this week as they discuss traffic safety as part of the 2019 Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals Conference.

"Having the Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals Conference in our city highlights the work that Calgary has done and is doing to make sure all of our citizens are safe on our roads," said Mayor Naheed Nenshi. "Road safety is a priority for Calgarians and we are proud to host this year's conference to learn from experts from around the world on how to continue improving our roadways."

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## Traffic experts gather in Calgary to discuss road safety

May 27, 2019, Global News (CALGARY, ALBERTA)

The city of Calgary will be hosting traffic safety professionals from across the country at the 2019 Canadian Association of Road Professionals Conference (CARSP).

Leaders at the conference will be discussing how to better protect children on Calgary roads, ways to curb risky driving behaviour, and implementing new technology on the roads.

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## Spike in fatal motorcycle crashes revs up calls for more training

May 26, 2019, Times Colonist (VICTORIA, B.C.)

At least two people will die in motorcycle crashes on B.C. roads each weekend this summer, if this year follows the same trend as last year.

There were 51 deaths related to motorcycle crashes in the province in 2018 – the highest number recorded in the past decade, according to a B.C. Coroners Service report released last week.

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## Bright yellow curb extenders are here to stay in Calgary's southeast

May 25, 2019, CBC News (CALGARY, ALBERTA)

Calgary's bright yellow concrete blocks have been so effective at slowing down traffic in one southeast neighbourhood that they're about to become a permanent fixture there.

Since 2016, the made-in-Calgary, temporary concrete curbs have been piloted in Erin Woods as a relatively cheap way for the city to narrow roads, slow traffic and make neighbourhoods safer.

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## Manitobans say its “unacceptable” to drive after consuming marijuana: MPI survey

May 23, 2019, MPI (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Eight in 10 Manitobans say it’s unacceptable to drive after consuming marijuana, according to a recent Manitoba Public Insurance survey of 1,500 Manitobans.

Drugged driving is a concern of many Manitobans and as part of MPI’s ongoing commitment to road safety and educating drivers about the dangers of drug-impaired driving, the Corporation recently launched its newest public awareness campaign, “Don’t drive high!”

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## Collision with reality

May 23, 2019, Castanet (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

There is a huge, and dangerously misleading, misconception at play in the motorcycle world about who’s at fault when motorcycle collisions happen. To quote the B.C. Coroner’s document Aug. 29, 2018 (Motorcyclists Deaths January 2008 to July 2018)...

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## Federal government funds millions to help B.C. police spot drugged driving

May 21, 2019, CTV News (VICTORIA, B.C.)

The federal government is boosting funding to help British Columbia police officers recognize drug-impaired drivers, months after it legalized recreational cannabis.

Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction Minister Bill Blair announced funding of \$10.1 million over five years to increase the number of officers trained in field sobriety testing and drug recognition.

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## Canada wants distracted driver training in MELT programs

May 16, 2019, Truck News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Training to combat distracted driving is set to become part of Canada's plans for mandatory entry-level driver training (MELT).

The commitment to introduce a national driver training standard was unveiled following a fatal truck crash involving a bus carrying members of the Humboldt Broncos hockey team, killing 16.

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## Edmonton city councillors consider 2-tier residential speed limits; decision won't be made until at least 2020

May 14, 2019, Global News (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

Pedestrian safety was discussed at Edmonton City Hall on Tuesday as city councillors warmed to the idea of adopting a two-tier system for residential speed limits in an attempt to make streets safer for those on foot.

The motion councillors were working on Tuesday afternoon would see 50 kilometre per hour speed limits reduced in residential areas, but they wouldn't be decreased the same way in each area.

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## Long weekend ahead: new survey shows majority of passengers concerned about speeding drivers

May 14, 2019, ICBC (BURNABY, B.C.)

As drivers hit the road this Victoria Day long weekend, police will be conducting a province-wide enforcement blitz to target speeders as part of a month-long campaign.

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## Road fatalities down ahead of National Traffic Safety Campaign

May 13, 2019, Goderich Signal Star (ORILLIA, ONTARIO)

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reporting that 58 people have died on OPP-roads so far this year (Jan. 1 - May 5, 2019).

Speed, alcohol/drugs, inattentive driving and lack of seat belt use are linked to almost half (45 percent) of the deaths.

There were 97 road fatalities this time last year, with more than half (53 percent) of the deaths linked to these same causal factors.

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## Ontario Introduces Speed Limit Pilots and Consultations

May 10, 2019, Ontario Ministry of Transportation (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The Ontario Government is exploring new ways to improve traffic flow and safety on provincial highways by introducing three speed limit pilots on select highways. At the same time, Ontario's Government for the people will launch province-wide consultations on how to safely increase highway speeds to align with other provinces, and how people currently drive.

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## Rural impaired driving rate highest in Sask.: Statistics Canada

May 10, 2019, CTV News (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

Saskatchewan continues to lead the country in impaired driving offences in rural areas, a report by Statistics Canada shows.

According to the report, Saskatchewan had a rural impaired driving rate of 939 incidents per 100,000 people in 2017. The next closest province was Alberta, which saw 597 incidents per 100,000 people.

The lowest rates were in Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador, which saw 187 and 192 incidents per 100,000 people respectively.

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## London city hall to consider lowering residential speed limits to 40 km/h

May 9, 2019, Global News (LONDON, ONTARIO)

Nearly three years after London reduced the speed limits in school zones to 40 km/h, city politicians are considering doing the same for residential neighbourhoods.

In a new report going before the civic works committee next week, city engineers recommend decreasing speed limits to 40 km/h in neighbourhoods. The idea would be to create area speed limits to reset how fast motorists can drive in certain areas of the city.

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## Pedestrian deaths make up half of Manitoba road fatalities so far, says MPI

May 9, 2019, Global News (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Pedestrians made up almost half of the total fatalities on local roads this year so far, according to Manitoba Public Insurance.

MPI said six of the 14 people involved in fatal crashes in 2019 weren't in a car when they were killed.

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## Alexa's Team Honours British Columbia Police Officers For Taking Impaired Drivers Off Roads And Highways

May 9, 2019, MADD Canada (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

Alexa's Team welcomes more members today as RCMP and Municipal police officers are recognized for their dedication and efforts to take impaired drivers off the roads.

Alexa's Team pays tribute to the dedicated RCMP and Municipal police officers who make an extraordinary contribution to reducing the number of drivers affected by alcohol or drugs on British Columbia's roads and highways.

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## Here's What's In Mississauga's Ambitious 'Master Plan' for Getting Around In The City

May 8, 2019, inSauga.com (MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO)

For decades, Mississauga's development has been driven, no pun intended, by the dominant use of the automobile as the primary means of transportation for the city's thousands of residents.

Hence, there was little need to develop a concrete transportation plan. Sure, there is Mississauga Transit, the city's much-vaunted bus system, but other than that most people drive everywhere in Mississauga, to and from points beyond.

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## Drivers beware: Automated speeding tickets coming to 35 B.C. intersections

May 7, 2019, CTV News (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

The B.C. government says it is adding technology capable of issuing automated speeding tickets at 35 intersections across the province in a bid to slow down speeders.

"Ignoring new, prominent warning signs and flying through one of British Columbia's highest-risk intersections soon will lead to an automated speeding ticket - a road safety approach proven to cut speeds and tragic outcomes elsewhere," the province said in statement announcing the changes Tuesday.

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## Children in poorer areas more likely to be hit by vehicles

May 7, 2019, CTV News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

A new study suggests children from poorer areas of Ontario face a greater risk of getting hit by vehicles than those from wealthier areas, possibly because they are more likely to walk to school alone.

The study conducted by researchers at Sick Kids hospital, York University and ICES, formerly known as the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences -- examined data on emergency department visits related to kids hit by cars from 2008 to 2015.

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## Tories may take higher speed limits for spin on local highways

May 7, 2019, London Free Press (LONDON, ONTARIO)

Southwestern Ontario could become a test zone for faster highways, as the Tory government considers raising speed limits for the first time since they were cut during the energy crisis a generation ago.

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## Drug-testing device gives false positives on poppy seeds, CBD oil, says Vancouver lawyer

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

A device the RCMP uses to test driver saliva for drugs is fooled by innocuous substances such as tea or poppy seeds, warns a Vancouver lawyer who tested the device this weekend.

But the maker of the device says the lawyer's tests are misleading and inaccurate. They say the device used for the tests was probably calibrated for different country – not the Canadian version specifically designed to test only for cannabis or cocaine.

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## I've Ridden in Both Cities, and Amsterdam Is No Model for Vancouver's Cycling Future

May 6, 2019, The Tyee.ca (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

For the last four weeks I've been commuting to The Tyee on my fancy bike. Via Quebec Street in the morning, where the bike lane is just two painted lines with cars passing on both sides, and sharing Ontario Street with other cyclists, mostly on road bikes with a pannier on one side, on the way home.

As a Dutch girl who's lived in Amsterdam off and on for five years, and an avid cyclist – I drove across the country from Halifax to my four-week internship with my bike on the back of my car – I've been fascinated by the bike lane debate here.

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## Polka dots painted on pavement may slow down speeders, experiment suggests

May 6, 2019, CBC News (CALGARY, ALBERTA)

People driving through Bridgeland are slowing down considerably after the community and the city banded together to add traffic calming elements – including colourful polka dots – to the popular main drag.

Last year, intersection of First Avenue and Ninth Street in northeast Calgary had poor visibility and cars often sped through the intersection, despite it being a quiet street shared with plenty of pedestrians and cyclists.

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## Sixteen Police Officers To Be Honoured For Their Work To Reduce Impaired Driving At First Nick Coates Awards

May 5, 2019, MADD Canada (ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND)

For many victims of impaired driving, when they hear about an impaired driver being caught, it is about much more than a charge or a sanction. It is about a potential crash being averted. It is about someone being spared a devastating injury. It is about a family not having to face the excruciating pain of losing a loved one, as Nick Coates' family did.

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## Distracted Driving and Cellphones: What Are the Risks?

May 3, 2019, Psychology Today (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

How dangerous is it to take your eyes off the road while distracted by a cellphone? As it happens, the answer to that question is "very"—and it's a problem that doesn't seem to have a clear solution, especially among young drivers.

Even before the rise of modern telecommunications, distracted driving has always been a major cause of automobile accidents.

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## First-time cannabis use up after legalization, StatsCan reports

May 2, 2019, CBC News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

More Canadians say they've used cannabis recreationally since it was legalized last fall, particularly those aged 45 to 64 and males, according to Statistics Canada.

About 18 per cent of Canadians 15 and older, or about 5.3 million people, reported pot use in the last three months, the federal agency said in its quarterly report on Thursday.

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## Ontario Introduces Legislation to Keep our Roads Safe, Protect Frontline Workers, Schoolchildren, and Motorcyclists

May 2, 2019, Ontario Ministry of Transportation (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Ontario's government is putting people first with the Getting Ontario Moving Act that, if passed, would cut red tape for our province's job creators, help keep our roads safe and enable the province to upload responsibility for new subway projects from the City of Toronto. The Getting Ontario Moving Act was introduced in the legislature today by Jeff Yurek, Minister of Transportation.

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## City of Calgary hopes focus on traffic safety will prevent injuries

May 2, 2019, CBC News (CALGARY, ALBERTA)

The City of Calgary has declared May traffic safety month, and employed a number of measures aimed at reducing injuries and deaths on city streets as the weather warms up.

"[May] is a month when we typically see people getting out on their bikes, walking, and increased motorcycle ridership, and so we want to talk about traffic safety," said Tony Churchill, head of traffic safety with the city.

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## Ford government to review Ontario's cycling policy amid surge in e-bikes, scooters

May 2, 2019, CBC News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The Progressive Conservative government plans to review the rules of the road for cyclists and a host of electric vehicles in Ontario, but the transportation minister says he "doesn't see a reason" to re-instate bicycle licences.

With more riders hitting the streets, the province intends to examine Ontario's cycling policy as part of its subway upload legislation, Transportation Minister Jeff Yurek said Thursday.

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## New ICBC campaign aimed at the leading cause of fatalities

May 1, 2019, ICBC (BURNABY, B.C.)

Every year, 82 people are killed in speed-related crashes, making speed the number one cause of car crash fatalities in B.C.\*

That's why ICBC, government and police are launching a new month-long campaign focusing on speed and urging drivers to slow down.

Speeding is a concern for all road users, not just drivers.

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## Canadian Events & Conferences in 2019 & 2020

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

Edmonton, Alberta  
August 18-21, 2019

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### **CCMTA Annual Meeting**

Charlottetown, PEI  
May 31-June 3, 2020

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### **Delft Road Safety Course**

Delft University of Technology  
The Netherlands  
September 8-20, 2019

[Learn more...](#)

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

Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
June 28-July 1, 2020

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

Iowa City, Iowa  
October 14-17, 2019

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