



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period June 1-30, 2019

Aviva makes U-turn on road safety flags after they draw ire of Toronto officials, advocates

June 26, 2019, CBC News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Aviva Canada is pulling back on an initiative meant to kick-off a \$5-million campaign aimed at boosting road safety after the rollout of bright flags for pedestrians to hold while crossing dangerous intersections drew the ire of both City of Toronto officials and safe streets advocates.

The insurer's corporate social responsibility campaign, called Take Back Our Roads, started quietly a week ago when it installed yellow flags in yellow canisters, bearing the Aviva name, at nine Toronto intersections that it determined were the riskiest, based on its claims data.

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Parachute Vision Zero - Word on the Street Vol. 7

June 2019, Parachute Canada (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

It's been a busy spring of Vision Zero activities at Parachute. We are excited to present Vol. 7 of Word on the Street -- a series of practical, evidence-based resources for Parachute's Vision Zero network to educate, inform and inspire those who are interested in getting to zero.

The topic of this issue is Vision Zero across Canada. Our resources include a case study that explores Vision Zero implementation experiences in three Canadian urban communities: Surrey, B.C., the Region of Durham in Ontario, and Kingston, Ont.

[Read about this case study and other Canadian experiences here...](#)

Winnipeg charts road toward lower speed limits with new plan

June 25, 2019, CBC News (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

The City of Winnipeg is creating a road map to figure out which streets should have lower speed limits, a committee heard Tuesday.

"I think it's important to have a process," said Coun. Matt Allard (St. Boniface), chair of the public works committee.

"This is an issue on the minds of a growing number of Winnipeggers."

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Feds consider changes to new impaired driving laws after B.C. complaints grow

June 21, 2019, Global News (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The federal government is looking at revisions to Canada's new drunk driving laws that give police power to pull over any vehicle and force the driver to take a breath test.

As Richard Zussman reports, it comes after yet another troubling story involving a B.C. driver with severe breathing issues.

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UNBC researcher leads study on cannabis-impaired driving

June 21, 2019, Kelowna Capital News (KELOWNA, B.C.)

A University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) research will be leading a study on the impact of cannabis legalization on motor vehicle collision injuries among young people.

"My hypothesis is that you're going to see increased use and that use is going to lead to increases in motor vehicle collision harms," said Dr. Russ Callaghan, a professor with the UNBC Northern Medical Program.

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More drug-impaired drivers arrested in Edmonton since cannabis legalized

June 21, 2019, CBC News (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

In the first six months of cannabis legalization, Edmonton police arrested 53 drug-impaired drivers compared to three in the same period the previous year. Nineteen were suspected of being impaired by cannabis.

The numbers are part of an Edmonton Police Commission document set to go before the Community and Public Services Committee next week outlining the impact and costs of cannabis legalization.

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New inspection facility to boost safety on B.C. roads

June 20, 2019, Government of B.C. (VICTORIA, B.C.)

Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) personnel have a new facility in Delta to help streamline commercial vehicle inspections and add training capacity to improve safety for people travelling on B.C.'s roads.

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Staff call for speed limits to be lowered on dozens of arterial roads

June 20, 2019, CP24 (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Speed limits could be lowered on dozens of arterial roads across Toronto as part of the second phase of the city's Vision Zero pedestrian safety plan.

A staff report that will be considered by the city's infrastructure and environment committee next week recommends that the speed limit be lowered from 60 km/h to 50 km/h on 41 stretches of road as part of Vision Zero 2.0.

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Why this bar is partly liable for impaired driving accident

June 20, 2019, Canadian Underwriter (PELHAM, ONTARIO)

Offering 12 beers for less than half price might be a good way for your client to get a crowd of customers into its bar, but it is not necessarily the best risk mitigation strategy.

A Niagara area bar is 20% liable for an accident caused by an impaired driver, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice ruled in *Hummel v. Jantzi*, released June 13. The damages are greater than \$10 million.

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'No loss of life is acceptable': Brampton adopts 'Vision Zero' road safety framework

June 17, 2019, Brampton Guardian (BRAMPTON, ONTARIO)

Brampton council is following in Peel Region and Toronto's footsteps adopting the "Vision Zero" framework, which is aimed at reducing loss of life on roads in Canada's ninth-largest city.

Brampton council voted in favour of adopting the Region of Peel's "Vision Zero" framework, based on a model implemented in Sweden in 1997, after receiving a report from traffic and parking operations manager Kevin Minaker at its June 12 council meeting.

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Federal government takes steps to curb bus, truck driver fatigue in Canada

June 13, 2019, CBC News (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Canada is making electronic logging devices mandatory for federally regulated commercial truck and bus drivers in an effort to combat driver fatigue and improve road safety.

Electronic devices track when and how long drivers have been behind the wheel. They are tamper-resistant and integrated into commercial vehicle engines, and are designed to ensure long-haul drivers stick to their daily driving limit and log their hours accurately.

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Are Canada's pot-impaired driving penalties too strict? New study suggests yes

June 13, 2019, Global News (VICTORIA, B.C.)

A new study from the University of British Columbia (UBC) is suggesting that Canada's cannabis-impaired driving penalties may be too strict.

That's after researchers found no link between low levels of THC, the psychoactive chemical in pot, and car crashes.

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Montreal pedestrian deaths at highest level in 6 years

June 12, 2019, Global News (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

After the year 2018 marked the deadliest year for pedestrians in Montreal since 2012, safety advocates are calling for change to stem the tide of pedestrian deaths in the city.

Eighteen people were killed on city streets in 2018, according to the Montreal police department's annual report released on Wednesday. The number is up from 15 in 2017 and last year marks the highest number of deaths seen on the roads in Montreal in the past six years.

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Two factors linked to nearly half of transport crashes

June 12, 2019, CTV News (ORILLIA, ONTARIO)

As the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) gears up for Operation Corridor, they are reporting that 40 per cent of transport truck collisions in 2018 involved a commercial driver who either made an improper lane change or was following a vehicle too closely.

The OPP responded to 7,674 transport truck collisions last year, with 63 lives lost and 1,142 of the crashes resulting in injuries. Nearly 75 per cent of the people killed in the collisions were passengers in other vehicles. Close to 80 per cent of last year's transport truck-related collisions were multi-vehicle crashes, making this a significant road safety issue.

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Plenty of American states have higher speed limits than we do. Are their roads more dangerous than ours?

June 10, 2019, Globe and Mail (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Furious that you can't go as fast as our neighbours down south? It turns out that higher speed limits in the United States might not mean safer roads.

"They're not doing just fine," says Mohamed Hussein, assistant professor of engineering at McMaster University. "Their fatality rate for 2016 was double ours."

According to a 2019 World Health Organization report on road safety, the U.S. saw 11.6 traffic-related deaths for every 100,000 people in 2016. In Canada, that number was 5.8.

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Red light cameras part of Kingston's 'Vision Zero' strategy

June 7, 2019, CBC News (KINGSTON, ONTARIO)

Red light cameras may be steering their way into high risk Kingston intersections.

The use of automated enforcement cameras to catch red light runners was shelved by Kingston's city council three years ago while a traffic and pedestrian safety study was launched.

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How Calgary's 'built for speed' playground zones punish people for doing what comes naturally

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

Over the past three years, Calgary drivers have racked up hundreds of thousands of tickets for speeding in playground zones and shelled out tens of millions of dollars in fines.

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Nanaimo woman wins legal fight over police allegations of drinking and driving

June 1, 2019, Vancouver Sun (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

Lee Anne Lowrie was in a panic after receiving a phone call from the RCMP saying they had a personal issue to discuss with her.

“I thought something had happened to someone in my family.” she said. It was Saturday, April 13, and the Nanaimo woman had travelled to Maple Ridge for a medical appointment. When the appointment was over, Lowrie and her boyfriend went to a local pub. Each had a drink and some appetizers.

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2019 & 2020

22nd ICADTS Conference

Edmonton, Alberta
August 18-21, 2019

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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

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6th International Symposium on Highway Geometric Design

Amsterdam, The Netherlands
June 28-July 1, 2020

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