



# Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period July 1-31, 2020

## **Almost 10% of Sask. Party candidates have been convicted of drunk driving**

July 31, 2020, CBC News (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

Six candidates running for the Saskatchewan Party have previous convictions for drunk driving. That's almost 10 per cent of the 61 candidates running for the party in the fall election.

The party's office made the disclosure on Friday afternoon, shortly before the start of the long weekend.

Four of the candidates are current MLAs for the Saskatchewan Party, including Premier Scott Moe. Those convictions had been publicly revealed before the last election.

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## **Nearly 8,000 tickets issued by city's speed cameras in two weeks**

July 31, 2020, CP24 News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The city's speed cameras issued nearly 8,000 tickets during the first two weeks of their enforcement this month.

Fifty Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras were installed months ago in local, collector and arterial roads in Community Safety Zones near schools to increase road safety and crack down on excessive speeding.

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## On a bicycle, do you respect others' space? July 31, 2020, SAAQ (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

Check out our new 2020 cyclists campaign, which aims to raise awareness among cyclists about the importance of keeping a safe and healthy distance from other road users.

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## Allison Hanes: Why is Vision Zero failing to prevent pedestrian deaths?

July 28, 2020, Montreal Gazette (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

A woman was hit by a pickup truck on Parc Ave. at the corner of Milton St. around 10:40 p.m. Monday.

A child was struck by a car around 4 p.m. last Wednesday on St-Ambroise St. in St-Henri.

These fatalities bring the pedestrian death toll in Montreal so far in 2020 to 12, according to police. After a lull – perhaps because of the drastic decrease in vehicles on the road or fewer people out and about during the pandemic – the city is now halfway toward last year's total.

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## Shared-use roads improve physical distancing, research shows

July 28, 2020, Folio (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

Making some of Edmonton's underused roadways available for pedestrians and cyclists cuts physical distancing violations along those routes by up to half, according to a University of Alberta study that may be paving a path for a COVID-19-inspired rethinking of urban design best practices.

In an effort to create space for the public to venture outdoors while maintaining physical distancing requirements, the City of Edmonton expanded walking paths at two locations—Victoria Promenade between 116 Street and 121 Street, and Saskatchewan Drive between 105 Street and 109 Street—where vehicle traffic has dwindled in the wake of the pandemic.

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## **New Saskatoon bike bylaw passes, minus proposed buffer between cyclists and pedestrians**

July 27, 2020, CBC News (SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN)

After years of drafting and debate, Saskatoon city councillors passed a revised bike bylaw on Monday afternoon.

One new change will allow children age 13 and under to ride on sidewalks. Another change, proposed by councillor Randy Donauer, did not ultimately make it into the bylaw. Donauer had sought a requirement for cyclists to give pedestrians a one-metre buffer when passing them on a multi-use pathway.

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## **New West motorists to face bigger fines for “dooring” cyclists**

July 24, 2020, New Westminister Record (NEW WESTMINISTER, B.C.)

Motorists will face steeper fines for an action that can have devastating consequences for cyclists - including death.

In an effort to help reduce cycling collisions and better protect everyone on the road, the provincial government is significantly increasing the fine for “dooring” - when people open a door of a parked car when it’s not considered reasonably safe to do so. Effective Sept. 21, the fine for dooring will increase to \$368, which is more than four times the current fine.

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## **Top ten spots in Halifax for pedestrians to get seriously injured by cars**

July 24, 2020, The Coast (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

If you're someone who tends to bike or walk in the city—there’s some new information about pedestrian safety you might want to know. A new study led by Simon Fraser University has compiled a new top 10 list of the most dangerous areas for cyclists and pedestrians in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

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## Impaired driving is up while Saskatchewan locked down, according to SGI

July 24, 2020, Global News (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

With more people staying home due to the coronavirus pandemic, there have been noticeably fewer cars on Saskatchewan roads. But that hasn't necessarily translated into fewer people getting behind the wheel while intoxicated.

The number of impaired driving offences across the province since the pandemic began in March has gone up slightly over the same time period last year, according to data provided by SGI.

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## Higher 'dooring' fine increases safety for cyclists

July 23, 2020, Government of B.C. (VICTORIA, B.C.)

To help reduce cycling collisions and better protect everyone on the road, the Province of British Columbia is significantly increasing the fine for "dooring."

Effective Sept. 21, 2020, anyone opening the door of a parked car when it is not reasonably safe to do so (known as "dooring") will face a fine of \$368. This new fine is about quadruple the current fine of \$81, which is among the lowest in Canada.

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## Province announces new supports for crime prevention and safety initiatives in Southern Manitoba from proceeds of crime

July 23, 2020, Government of Manitoba (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

The Manitoba government is investing more than \$85,000 from the proceeds of crime in safety and crime prevention programs for three communities in southern Manitoba and the surrounding region, Justice Minister Cliff Cullen announced today.

"I'm pleased to announce this investment through the criminal property forfeiture program, which takes money from unlawful activity and puts it to good use," said Cullen.

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## Significant increase in speed-related Serious Driving Offences: Manitoba Public Insurance

July 22, 2020, MPI (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Far too many drivers are travelling at dangerous speeds, endangering the lives of other motorists on Manitoba roadways, according to Manitoba Public Insurance.

Over the last three months — April to June — a total of 148 speed-related Serious Driving Offences (SDO) have been forwarded to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. This is a 60 per cent increase compared to the same time frame in 2019 when 93 SDOs were forwarded to MPI by Manitoba police agencies.

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## Police enforcement campaign focuses on commercial vehicles to improve road safety

July 22, 2020, CTV News (SUDBURY, ONTARIO)

Improving commercial vehicle safety was the aim of a recent Ontario Provincial Police campaign called "Operation Safe Driver."

The initiative ran July 12-18 and resulted in hundreds of charges on our northern highways.

Speeding was the No. 1 charge laid during the campaign, with OPP officers out on the road focusing on improving commercial vehicle safety.

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## Safer design could make bus crashes like Jasper National Park rollover less deadly, expert says

July 21, 2020, CBC News (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

More comprehensive federal regulations could help reduce the dangers of bus crashes like the deadly rollover in Jasper National Park on Saturday that killed three people and injured two dozen others, says a road safety expert.

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## Advocate warns reckless e-scooter use could pose safety risk to riders, pedestrians

July 20, 2020, CBC News (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

E-scooters might be a fast, fun way to zip around the city, but some people are concerned about the potential for injury for riders and pedestrians.

Paul Vienneau, a disability and accessibility advocate in Halifax, said he's seen e-scooter riders without helmets going the wrong way down the street, and swerving to narrowly avoid hitting people on the sidewalk.

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## SGI Numbers Show Distracted Driving on the Rise Despite Steeper Fines

July 19, 2020, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

Saskatchewan General Insurance recently released the numbers for their June Traffic Safety Spotlight. This month's spotlight focused largely on distracted driving. In the release, SGI expressed its disappointment with drivers after 700 tickets were issued for distracted driving in June alone.

"It's not surprising to see bigger numbers in any given month when you're focusing on distracted driving because police are focusing on it too," said Tyler McMurchy, Media Relations Manager with SGI. "When it comes to distracted driving, obviously if people weren't doing it the police wouldn't catch them."

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## Canada and Ontario invest in roads and an airport runway for rural communities in Northern Ontario

July 15, 2020, Government of Ontario (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Joint federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations funding through the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan will support six road projects and one airport runway project in Northern Ontario. These investments will strengthen connections between rural communities and support economic growth.

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## Drug-impaired driving on the rise: Research

July 14, 2020, Toronto Sun (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Drug-impaired driving has been on the increase since 2009 when police forces introduced drug recognition experts, according to Department of Public Safety research.

Behind the wheel, cannabis can affect motor skills and reaction time, impair memory and the capacity to focus, and reduce decision-making ability.

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## Council seeks plan to turn Edmonton into Canada's safest city

July 13, 2020, CBC News (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

"Edmonton is the safest city in Canada" – that's how the headline might read in 2030 if city council successfully turns the city's ranking around dramatically in 10 years.

Coun. Sarah Hamilton proposed the lofty goal at the end of a lengthy debate on policing last Monday, which council unanimously supported.

It would be quite the opposite of the current reality and reputation.

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## Toronto police launch road safety campaign for cyclists

July 13, 2020, CTV News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The Toronto Police Service has kicked off a week-long traffic campaign geared to cyclists which will focus on community engagement, education and enforcement.

With more people biking outdoors to take advantage of the city's ActiveTO program, police are reminding drivers to stay alert and anticipate sharing the road with cyclists.

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## City develops new road safety and traffic calming strategy

July 10, 2020, GuelphToday.com (GUELPH, ONTARIO)

The city has developed a new road safety plan that highlights areas where new road safety measures are needed.

While the full report has not yet been released to the public, the Community Road Safety Strategy, will be presented at the July 20 meeting of council for approval.

It includes a new traffic calming policy.

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## Saskatchewan has lowest traffic fatalities and injuries since SGI started keeping records

July 9, 2020, yorktonthisweek.com (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

By significant margin, last year was the safest year on Saskatchewan roads, ever since SGI started keeping track in the 1950s.

That was evidenced by SGI's annual report, released in Regina on July 9 by Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance Joe Hargrave.

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## City of Ottawa to activate speed cameras in eight neighbourhoods next week

July 9, 2020, OttawaMatters.com (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

New speed cameras will soon be monitoring drivers in eight Ottawa neighbourhoods.

The City of Ottawa says signs have been posted in designated community safety zones since December, warning drivers that speed cameras were coming soon. It's now expecting to put the cameras to use, starting Monday, July 13. The streets featuring the new cameras will include...

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## Study finds top 10 most dangerous areas for pedestrians in Halifax Regional Municipality

July 2, 2020, SFU News (BURNABY, B.C.)

A new study led by Simon Fraser University (SFU) has determined the top ten most dangerous areas for pedestrians in the Halifax Regional Municipality, and youth are at the highest risk.

Geography professor Nadine Schuurman and her team used data from the Nova Scotia Trauma Registry to map the 10 hotspots in Dartmouth and Halifax where pedestrians had the highest number of severe injuries from motor vehicle collisions.

Researchers found that people aged 11 to 30 were at the highest risk and accounted for about 46 per cent of all pedestrian injuries. Men were at a slightly greater risk of injury than women (approximately 54 per cent to 46 per cent respectively). The researchers found higher rates of injury in areas of lower and higher socio-economic status (SES) compared to middle class neighbourhoods.

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### **CARSP, PRI, TIRF & Desjardins Webinar Series**

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### **CARSP/PRI 2021 Joint Conference**

Montreal, Quebec

August 22-25, 2021

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