



# Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period September 1-30, 2020

## **Distracted Driving & Workplace Safety Policies: A Business Case for Employers**

September 28, 2020, TIRF (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) released a new report, *Distracted Driving & Workplace Safety Policies: A Business Case for Employers*, from its Canadian Coalition on Distracted Driving. It was developed in consultation with The Co-operators, Drop It And Drive®, the trucking industry, and workplace health and safety representatives. This report underscores the importance of distracted driving policies in the workplace to protect employees. Preventing distraction-related crashes on the road and in the workplace remains a priority for Canadian employers.

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## **'Off to a great start': Bike Regina to work with City on new cycling bylaws**

September 25, 2020, CTV News (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

Riding a bike on busy city streets can be dangerous, but the City of Regina is hoping to change that.

"We need to make this city more inviting to cyclists, pedestrians and to everybody who wants to get out of their car," Ward 3 Councillor Andrew Stevens said.

City Administration presented 16 cycling centric amendments to the City's Traffic Safety Bylaw during Wednesday's Public Works and Infrastructure Committee meeting.

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## Winnipeggers asked to weigh in on city's road safety action plan

September 22, 2020, Global News (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

The city is working on a plan that will drive decisions around road safety over the next few years and is now looking for feedback from Winnipeggers to help create the roadmap.

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## SGI continues partnership with ministries of Justice and Attorney General and Corrections and Policing to support Northern Alcohol Strategy

September 22, 2020, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

SGI is extending its partnership with the ministries of Justice and Attorney General and Corrections and Policing to invest up to \$250,000 into the expansion of the Northern Alcohol Strategy in 2020-21.

Since 2016, the Northern Alcohol Strategy has worked to reduce alcohol-related harms for residents of Northern Saskatchewan. The strategy takes a collaborative and holistic approach between communities and government, to reduce harms caused by alcohol in Saskatchewan through data-driven, local solutions.

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## Street-racing group stages 'mega meet' in Hamilton amid COVID-19 restrictions

September 20, 2020, Y108.ca (HAMILTON, ONTARIO)

A group of street racers from the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) took over a parking lot in Ancaster for what police are calling a "mega meet," with hundreds of people in attendance on Saturday night.

The event happened just hours after the Ford government announced that it would be implementing new gathering restrictions across the province in response to a recent surge in COVID-19 cases.

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## City Looking for Community Feedback for its First Pedestrian Master Plan

September 18, 2020, City of Mississauga (MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO)

The City of Mississauga is creating its first Pedestrian Master Plan to help identify gaps in its pedestrian network. The City will seek community feedback through an online survey and a virtual public information session in the fall.

“We are working to build a livable, walkable City that is safe, pedestrian-friendly and encourages active lifestyles. We have heard that road safety is a concern for pedestrians and cyclists and is also a barrier that prevents them from using their preferred mode of travelling,” said Mayor Bonnie Crombie. “The Pedestrian Master Plan will help us move closer to Vision Zero and Transportation Master Plan goal of safety for all.

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## Cannabis-impaired driving still a significant issue among young Canadians, CAA finds

September 17, 2020, newswire.ca (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

One-fifth of 18-24-year-olds - equivalent to over half a million Canadians - say they have driven high or been in a vehicle with a high driver, according to new research from the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) released today.

The finding points to the need for more public education to make sure everyone understands the risks of driving high, according to Ian Jack, vice president, public affairs at CAA.

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## Province wants public feedback on new Traffic Safety Act regulations

September 17, 2020, Halifax Today (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

Nova Scotians are invited to provide feedback on the province's draft regulations under the new Traffic Safety Act.

The proposed drivers regulations are being made available online for public comment effective today, Sept. 17.

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## **Manitoba Public Insurance and police focus on school zone safety: enhanced enforcement in September**

September 15, 2020, MPI (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Manitoba Public Insurance is once again partnering with law enforcement agencies throughout the province to fund enhanced enforcement activities in and around schools over the month of September.

Now in its eighth year, MPI provides funding to assist three police agencies in enhancing their patrols around schools in the mornings and afternoons when pedestrian activity and traffic volumes are heaviest. Participating agencies this year are the RCMP, Winnipeg and Brandon police services.

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## **Edmonton councilor calls for renewed road safety following city's release of traffic crash data**

September 13, 2020, Global News (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

Edmonton's Whyte Avenue is just one of many roadways identified in the city's recently released high injury network.

The map below shows the highest concentration of serious injuries and fatal crashes caused by a vehicle, riding a bike or walking. The city said the information comes from five years of crash data.

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## **Mother hopes others can learn from her grief in pushing for road safety changes**

September 13, 2020, CTV News (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

A Quebec mother is sharing her late son's story as part of an effort to make the province's streets safer.

Jules Boutin was killed last year in front of his Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts school. The 13-year-old was struck and hit by a school bus while trying to cross the street at a crosswalk. The police called the death an accident, but his parents believe his death was preventable.

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## Swedish road design could mean fewer deadly head-on collisions on Highway 50 near Gatineau

September 13, 2020, Ottawa Citizen (GATINEAU, QUEBEC)

It is just a 5.4-kilometre stretch of highway, but Canadian road safety advocates see recent changes to Highway 50 near Gatineau as a path to a future with fewer deadly head-on crashes.

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## Government of Canada and Government of British Columbia begin school bus seatbelt pilot tests

September 10, 2020, Transport Canada (VICTORIA, B.C.)

The safety of Canada's road users is a priority for federal, provincial, and territorial governments, and that starts with the safe transportation of our school children.

Today, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Marc Garneau, along with both B.C. Minister of Education, the Honourable Rob Fleming, and B.C. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Honourable Claire Trevena, jointly announced the start of a pilot project involving the use of seatbelts in school buses in two school districts in British Columbia.

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## New photo radar cameras nab more than 10,000 speeders in 18 days

September 9, 2020, CBC News (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Ottawa's four new photo radar cameras caught more than 10,000 speeding drivers in the act in just 18 days this July, many of them near schools.

Mayor Jim Watson shared the first data from the city's new automatic ticketing system during Wednesday's council meeting, as he underscored the importance of keeping roads safe as children head back to school.

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## **Impaired driving on the decline in Saskatchewan**

September 7, 2020, Humboldt Journal (HUMBOLDT, SASKATCHEWAN)

The year 2019 saw a record low year for the number of people killed and injured in impaired driving collisions in Saskatchewan.

According to estimated numbers, fatalities are down over 50 per cent from 2018 and it was down almost 70 per cent from 2012 which had the highest number of fatalities in the last decade. 2009 saw impaired driver injuries hitting a high of 889 where as 2019 saw 332 injuries. Although this is good news, the province feels the work is not done.

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## **Personality Profiles of Drivers Who Get Distracted by Their Phones**

September 6, 2020, Psychology Today (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

It is abundantly clear that using a smartphone while driving is dangerous. When you call, text, check your favorite feed, check a game, listen to voicemail, or fumble for your phone, delayed reaction time and distraction lead to inadvertent lane changes, tailgating, and increased risk of collision.

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## **OPP release grim road stats ahead of long weekend**

September 3, 2020, Toronto Sun (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The OPP says it will make its presence known over the Labour Day long weekend to make sure drivers practise good driving habits as kids go back to school.

By the end of August, Ontario Provincial Police had responded to 165 fatal motor vehicle crashes, with 179 road deaths.

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## Study: Electronics could stop 40% of big truck rear crashes

September 3, 2020, Canadian Press (DETROIT, MICHIGAN)

Safety features such as automatic emergency braking and forward collision warnings could prevent more than 40% of crashes in which semis rear-end other vehicles, a new study has found.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, a research group supported by auto insurers, also found that when the rear crashes happened, the systems cut the speeds by over 50%, reducing damage and injuries.

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## Canadian Events & Conferences in 2020 & 2021

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

Thursday, June 25 - Friday, October 16

[Learn more](#)

### **Canada's Safest Driver Contest – by Parachute Canada**

October 1-November 26, 2020

[Learn more](#)

### **ICTCT Webinar (Free): Crash Causation and Prevention**

October 16, 2020

[Learn more](#)

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

Montreal, Quebec

August 22-25, 2021

[Learn more](#)