



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period October 1-31, 2020

New strategy to reduce serious traffic accidents

October 31, 2020, Delta Optimist (DELTA, B.C.)

Delta wants its own Vision Zero Strategy.

Council this week endorsed a staff recommendation to develop a strategy, which would be an integrated approach to reduce serious traffic collisions.

Vision Zero is a multi-national road traffic safety project that aims to achieve a road system with no fatalities or serious injuries.

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SGI tackles distracted driving through latest awareness campaign

October 30, 2020, 620ckrm.com (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

“Keep your eyes on the road ahead - everything else can wait” is the latest campaign message from Saskatchewan Government Insurance to discourage drivers from driving distracted.

The new awareness campaign shows the devastating consequences of distracted driving by sharing a 60-second commercial based on actual experiences of collisions from Saskatchewan first responders. The commercial depicts the scene of a fatal crash and shows the impact it can have on family and friends.

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The other side of the pandemic: fewer traffic deaths

October 30, 2020, Ottawa Citizen (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Traffic deaths across Canada plummeted by 34 per cent as the country went into lockdown at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, newly released international data reveals. Traffic-related injuries also decreased.

The decrease reflected fewer vehicles on roads as schools and businesses shut down and many people began working from home starting in March.

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Toronto launches MoveTO action plan to combat traffic congestion, increase safety

October 29, 2020, Global News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The City of Toronto launched a new MoveTO action plan which aims to help battle traffic congestion on the streets and increase safety.

The plan entails five key proposed actions: “Smart” traffic signals, “Intelligent” intersections, Advanced Transit Signal Priority (ATSP), continue and grow the Construction Hub Pilot Program and Transportation Demand Management Strategy.

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Canadian Coalition on Distracted Driving focuses on safety at crash scenes and prevention of first responder critical incident stress

October 28, 2020, TIRF (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Each year, collisions on Canadian roads have devastating consequences for communities across the country, and distracted driving is a contributing factor in one in four fatalities. Concern understandably centres on the victims, families and communities who are directly impacted. But the immediate and long-term consequences for first responders, including police, fire and paramedics, who attend crash scenes is not always recognized.

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Vehicles equipped with winter tires in fewer crashes: Manitoba Public Insurance study confirm

October 28, 2020, MPI (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Vehicles equipped with winter tires are in fewer crashes than vehicles without winter tires, according to a Manitoba Public Insurance report.

Based on analysis of winter month claims (November to March), winter tire use is estimated to reduce collision claim frequency by 6.3 per cent.

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Speeding in school zones leads to hard lessons for Saskatchewan drivers

October 28, 2020, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

The September Traffic Safety Spotlight was on #SchoolZone safety. September was back to school across Saskatchewan, and more than a few drivers learned a tough lesson about the cost of speeding through school zones.

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arrive alive DRIVE SOBER 2020 Conference

October 26, 2020, aaDS (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

As with many other events in 2020, this year's Arrive Alive Conference scheduled for October 26th took place on-line; consisting of pre-recorded videos. Some of these videos were recorded in our office, others were sent in by various speakers; so the formats will vary slightly.

The Arrive Alive Conference: "Road Safety Reset" featured speakers from government agencies, police, services, the alcohol industry, and more, will share current issues - some with a COVID-19 perspective.

For ease of access, all videos were posted to a YouTube playlist. Upon completion of viewing the presentations, please take a moment to fill out this evaluation form ([LINK](#)). We'll even mail you a t-shirt in exchange for your honest opinion.

[View this conference on YouTube](#)

Government of Canada marks important milestone to bring electronic logging devices into commercial vehicles

October 26, 2020, Canada Newswire (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The Government of Canada is committed to improving road safety in Canada by taking measures to reduce commercial driver fatigue, which is why it has mandated the use of electronic logging devices.

Today, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Marc Garneau announced that FPIInnovations has been accredited as the first third-party organization to certify electronic logging devices. This is a critical step that ensures an electronic logging device is safe, reliable, and approved for use in Canada.

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Road safety concerns mount as daylight dwindles: Study

October 24, 2020, Toronto Sun (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

As the weather turns colder and the days get shorter many motorists start to fear for road safety.

The end of Daylight-Saving Time approaching, and with it often comes a number of road safety concerns that GTA road users have this time of year.

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Road safety a priority after eight pedestrians, kid on bike hit in last week: Ottawa police

October 23, 2020, Ottawa Matters (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) says it's keeping a closer eye on speeders, especially near downtown intersections, after eight pedestrians and a child riding a bike were hit by vehicles in the last week.

Officers are issuing a reminder to commuters, to adjust their behaviour when it comes to seeing and being seen on the road.

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Ontario Seeking Feedback on Improving Transportation in the Northeast

October 23, 2020, Government of Ontario (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Ontario is launching an online survey as part of its commitment to improve passenger rail and bus services between Toronto, North Bay, Timmins and Cochrane. Responses to the Northeastern Ontario transportation survey will be used to explore options for passenger rail services and help inform the future transportation plan for Northern Ontario.

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New partnership supports critical road-safety research and education

October 22, 2020, TIRF (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

According to research, more than 90 per cent of collisions are the result of driver error or driver condition, and many are preventable through small shifts in road behaviour. Increasing road safety for all users is a shared responsibility, which is why the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF), Consolidated Collision Services (CCS), and RSA Canada and its affiliate insurers, Canadian Northern Shield Insurance Company (CNS) and Western Assurance Company (WA), are pleased to announce a partnership to support safe driving.

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Government of Canada investing in new projects that improve road safety for Canadians

October 21, 2020, Canada Newswire (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The Government of Canada is committed to improving road safety and keeping Canadians safe, which is why it is increasing its investments in new road safety initiatives.

Today, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Marc Garneau, announced that \$10 million is now available for projects that promote road safety; aim to reduce road-related collisions, injuries and fatalities; and encourage harmonization with provincial and territorial road safety initiatives under the Enhanced Road Safety Transfer Payment Program.

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MADD Canada Calls on Health Minister To Put Warning Labels On Alcohol Products Amidst Increase In Public Alcohol Consumption

October 19, 2020, Global News (OAKVILLE, ONTARIO)

With Canadians' alcohol consumption increasing during the COVID-19 pandemic, MADD Canada is calling on Canada's Health Minister, The Honourable Patty Hajdu, to require alcohol products to have warning labels.

Various reports and studies have shown an increase in Canadians' alcohol consumption during the COVID-19 pandemic, including one by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research that indicated that 23.3% of respondents said they were drinking more alcohol.

“Given the reported increase in alcohol consumption by Canadians, it is time for Health Canada to require warning labels on alcohol products to ensure consumers are aware of the health and safety risks associated with over-consumption, including impaired driving,” said MADD Canada Chief Executive Officer Andrew Murie. “The labels should also include information about serving size and standard drink size, so people can better measure and monitor their consumption.”

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Frustrated safe cycling advocates say city report on high-risk intersections shows need for urgent action

October 17, 2020, Capital Current (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Cycling advocates say they are frustrated by the City of Ottawa's Cycling Safety Review of High-Volume Intersections, a newly released report identifying dangerous intersections and recommending changes to prevent vehicle-cyclist collisions.

The review was undertaken in response to inquiries posed by Mayor Jim Watson and former Cumberland Ward councillor Stephen Blais in May 2019 after a 60 year old male cyclist was struck and killed in the bike lane on Laurier Avenue, in a hit-and-run in front of City Hall. The incident took place along a painted bike lane that ran alongside westbound vehicle lanes where cars are often shifting across the bike lane before turning on to Elgin Street.

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Manitoba teen drivers exhibit high-risk behaviours: Manitoba Public Insurance

October 16, 2020, MPI (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Manitoba teen drivers' behaviours are at the forefront of road safety as National Teen Driver Safety Week (October 18-24) is about to launch.

Over the last decade (2010-2019) teen drivers have been involved in 10 per cent of fatal crashes and eight per cent of injury crashes, said Satvir Jatana, Vice President, Employee and Community Engagement, Manitoba Public Insurance.

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Ontario government won't pursue criminal charges for some impaired drivers due to COVID-19 court backlog

October 16, 2020, Global News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The Ontario government is recommending Crown prosecutors no longer pursue criminal charges against people caught driving under the influence in cases without aggravating factors such as a death or injuries, according to a new directive from the provincial Ministry of the Attorney General.

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Dramatic' rise in impaired driving on P.E.I. concerns RCMP boss

October 14, 2020, CBC News (CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.)

The commanding officer of the RCMP on P.E.I. says she's deeply concerned by the "culture" of impaired driving on the Island.

Chief Supt. Jennifer Ebert told a legislative standing committee Wednesday that her officers are on pace to make more impaired driving arrests this year than in either of the last two years – despite fewer drivers being on the road overall due to COVID-19 restrictions and work from home policies.

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Alberta RCMP promotes traffic safety in support of #OperationImpact2020 over Thanksgiving weekend

October 14, 2020, theWhig.com (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

It is always expected that our provincial roadways will become busier with holiday traffic.

Over the Thanksgiving long weekend, police forces across Canada led #OperationImpact2020, an initiative organized by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police to encourage safe driving behaviours.

This year, Operation Impact's theme was Safety Doesn't Happen by Accident, which focused on the idea that we all have a role to play in supporting traffic safety throughout our communities.

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POLL: Even with reduced in-class school attendance, school zone traffic safety has not improved, parents report

October 13, 2020, Canada Newswire (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

While more than one-quarter of Canadian elementary-school children are no longer travelling to school regularly this fall, a majority of parents report that school zone traffic congestion and driver behaviour has either worsened or not improved.

Those are just some of the findings of a national survey commissioned by Parachute, Canada's national charity dedicated to injury prevention, and its Elementary Road Safety partner, Aviva Canada. This survey assesses the impact of COVID-19 public health measures on school attendance and school zone traffic safety issues.

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Motor vehicle-related deaths climb amid record decline in collisions and charges across Peel region

October 10, 2020, DurhamRegion.com (MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO)

Despite a significant drop in collisions and speeding fines in Peel Region since the pandemic shutdown began, there has been a spike in motor vehicle-related deaths.

On Friday night, a 19-year-old man died in Mississauga in a three-vehicle collision with a suspected drink driver. Police said the accused had two previous impaired driving convictions. Peter Simms, 46, of Orangeville, has been charged.

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Operation Red Nose cancels 2020 ride service due to COVID-19

October 10, 2020, 620 CKRM (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Operation Red Nose has decided not to provide ride service during the 2020 holiday season.

National Development Coordinator Marie-Chantal Fortin says after careful consideration, it just proved logistically impossible to provide the service during the pandemic.

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Province wants public feedback on second phase of new Traffic Safety Act regulations

October 8, 2020, Halifax Today (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

Government continues to seek public input on the Traffic Safety Act draft regulations.

As of today, Oct. 8, Nova Scotians can provide feedback on vehicle regulations, the second phase of the province's draft regulations under the new Traffic Safety Act.

The proposed vehicle regulations are available online for public feedback.

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A look at Saskatchewan's long, tempestuous relationship with impaired driving

October 8, 2020, CBC News (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

Saskatchewan has had a long, tempestuous relationship with impaired driving. At various points over the years, the province has been the worst in Canada for drinking and driving cases. But Saskatchewan has come a long way, according to experts.

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Drunk driving charges reduced to careless driving as COVID-19 backlog piles up

October 7, 2020, Simcoe.com (OAKVILLE, ONTARIO)

COVID-19 has created such an unmanageable backlog of court cases that even Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) agrees with a provincial policy that reduces some drunk driving cases to careless driving for fear of seeing the charges dropped altogether.

Andrew Murie, CEO of MADD Canada, said the well-known national organization would be outraged in normal circumstances, but insists there are few options during the ongoing pandemic.

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Speed limits being lowered on busy road in Mississauga

October 6, 2020, insauga.com (MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO)

If you regularly drive down one of Mississauga's busiest (and most scenic) roads, you should be careful to watch your speed.

At a recent general committee meeting, city council approved a recommendation to lower the speed limit on parts of Lakeshore Road.

"The Transportation and Works Department supports lowering the existing regulatory speed limit on Lakeshore Road in the B.I.A. of Clarkson and Port Credit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h, and reducing portions of the existing 60 km/h zones to 50 km/h," a city spokesperson said in an email to insauga.com.

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Think you are a good driver? Most Canadians admit to dangerous habits in new report

October 1, 2020, Global News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

A new safe-driving report says most Canadians have admitted to dangerous driving in the past year.

And by dangerous driving, we are talking about motorists who have engaged in eating, speeding, driving while tired, and forgetting to signal.

Also considered risky habits behind the wheel: Smoking, texting, using a cellphone, applying makeup, letting the passenger take the wheel, impaired driving, and “microsleeping.”

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2020 & 2021

Canada's Safest Driver Contest – by Parachute Canada

October 1-November 26, 2020

[Learn more](#)

CARSP/PRI 2021 Joint Conference

Montreal, Quebec

August 22-25, 2021

[Learn more](#)