



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the period August 1st to 15th, 2014

Fewer crashes in B.C. since tough new drunk driving laws: study

August 15, 2014, CTV News (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

A new study suggests that while changes to British Columbia's drunk driving laws have been controversial, they may also be linked to a drop in fatal car crashes and hospital admissions.

Researchers from the University of British Columbia contend that the harsher penalties for impaired driving and speeding, that came into effect in September 2010 in B.C., have led to fewer crashes.

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City reviving road safety task force

August 14, 2014, CBC News (HAMILTON, ONTARIO)

Hamilton councillors have voted to revive a task force aimed at making the city streets and sidewalks safer for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists.

The Hamilton Road Safety Program committee dates from more than a decade ago. In 2007, council passed a bundle of the recommendations that were designed to reduced road crashes causing death, injury or property damage by 10 per cent every three years...

...A study by Hamilton's Social Planning and Research Council suggested Hamilton pedestrians and cyclists are at higher risk of getting hit by cars than the provincial average, and that the city has one of the highest rates of pedestrian deaths in the province.

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Cycling, healthy living get funding boost from BikeBC

August 9, 2014, Government of B.C. (VICTORIA, B.C.)

The Government of B.C. is investing \$3.61 million in BikeBC this year, to expand and build new cycling lanes, trails and paths for healthier B.C. families and communities.

BikeBC is a cost-sharing program between the Province and local governments. This year's investment will help create more than \$7.22 million in cycling infrastructure. Since 2001, the B.C. government has committed more than \$150 million for cycling infrastructure, creating new bicycle lanes and trails in over 95 communities across the province.

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Why raising speed limits on Canadian highways is a bad idea

August 8, 2014, Globe and Mail (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Canadians concerned with road safety should be shocked that British Columbia will increase speed limits to 120 km/h on some highways. This decision begs scrutiny and flies in the face of public health, injury prevention and common sense. A recent survey in Ontario revealed that many Ontarians also favor raising speed limits to 120 km/h on some highways.

Fast driving is a serious public safety problem. Speeding increases the likelihood and severity of a crash; the laws of physics are not very forgiving to the speeding driver...

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1,300 penalties issued under new traffic laws **Two-thirds of sanctions (are) for impaired driving**

August 8, 2014, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

One month after changes to Saskatchewan's traffic laws came into effect, 515 motorists have received licence suspensions and 785 have had their vehicles seized, for a total of 1,300 sanctions.

New traffic laws took effect June 27, 2014. During the period from June 27-July 31, 2014, drivers received the following penalties:

- 515 roadside suspensions for impaired driving
- 352 impaired driving vehicle seizures
- 280 unauthorized driver vehicle seizures
- 153 high-risk driving vehicle seizures

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Manitoba wraps up first year with demerits for distracted driving

August 5, 2014, iNews880.com (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

With numbers staying the same, it may be in Alberta's best interest to add demerits to a distracted driving fine.

Manitoba has recently wrapped up its first year of demerits for texting and driving and according to Manitoba's auto insurer the numbers haven't changed all that much.

Reporter Kim Lawson in Winnipeg says there are options may distracted driving even less appealing, but she thinks it just needs time.

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Police watching for distracted drivers in August

August 5, 2014, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

Distracted driving, the number one contributing factor in crashes in Saskatchewan, is the traffic safety spotlight for the month of August.

Police across the province will be on the lookout for drivers using their cellphones to talk or text while driving, and those driving without due care and attention.

"You hear your cellphone ring or the ping of an incoming text, and it's tempting to answer," said Andrew Cartmell, President and CEO of SGI. "Not only is it against the law, but it's incredibly unsafe, so if you must send a text or take a call, pull over safely to the side of the road before doing so."

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OTA defends industry in wake of Burlington Skyway (PR) disaster

August 1, 2014, Truck News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

A truck driver yesterday took the Burlington Skyway out of commission with a raised dump bucket and was then charged with impaired driving, giving the industry a black eye and causing mainstream media to examine the issue of truck safety and the impairment of drivers.

To this, the Ontario Trucking Association (OTA) responded by pointing out that truck drivers are the least likely of all motorists on the road to be impaired by drugs and alcohol. The association noted also that they've been involved in zero alcohol-related fatalities.

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Toronto car crashes: More distracted drivers, fewer drunk ones

August 1, 2014, Global News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Toronto police are chalking up more collisions to inattentive drivers, collision records show - even as alcohol's being cited as a factor in fewer crashes. Between 2000 and 2012, the most recent complete year available, the number of drivers described as "inattentive" grew by 50 per cent, according to collision data obtained by Global News from the city. (The figures for the first few months of 2013 indicate a slight drop)

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The facts: Alcohol and drugs among truck drivers

August 1, 2014, Digital Journal (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

In the wake of yesterday's accident and closure of the Toronto-bound Burlington Skyway, Ontario Trucking Association (OTA) is providing the public the latest information and safety data regarding the use of drugs and alcohol among commercial drivers.

It has become an industry standard over the last 20 years for companies to take proactive steps to ensure drivers are fit for duty, and not operating under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2014 & 2015

TAC Fall Technical Meeting

Montreal, Quebec

September 24 - 27, 2014

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TAC Annual Conference & Exhibition – Transportation – Past, Present & Future

Montreal, Quebec

September 28 - October 1, 2014

[Learn more...](#)

Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) Complete Streets Forum

Daniel's Spectrum, Toronto, Ontario

October 6, 2014

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ACT Canada (Association of Commuter Transportation of Canada) Sustainable Mobility and Healthy Communities Summit – 2014

Markham, Ontario

November 30 - December 3, 2014

[Learn more...](#)

25th CARSP Conference (formerly Canadian Multidisciplinary Road Safety Conference or CMRSC).

Delta Ottawa City Centre

Ottawa, Ontario

May 27 - 30, 2015

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If you are aware of road safety news items or upcoming conferences that should be included in this Safety News Digest, please forward them to info@carsp.ca

