



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the period August 16th to 31st, 2014

Texting and driving fines could triple on P.E.I. - Transportation Minister Rob Vessey wants to see fine as high as \$1,200

August 30, 2014, CBC News (CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.)

The fine for texting and driving may soon triple on Prince Edward Island. Transportation Minister Rob Vessey says the province is considering a fine increase.

The fine ranges between \$300 and \$475. Vessey says he would like to see that increase to as high as \$1,200.

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Is it time for higher speed limits on Canada's highways?

August 29, 2014, CBC News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

In B.C., the speed limits are rising on about 1,300 kilometres of highway this summer – in a few cases up to 120 km/h.

Quebec is exploring the idea of variable speed limits – as high as 120 but only when the weather's good – as part of a pilot project on two highways this fall.

Not to be overtaken, some Ontario motorists have mounted a campaign that would allow vehicles to be able to roll along at up to 130 km/h on some of the province's better highways.

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CAA Manitoba wants phones taken from distracted drivers

August 29, 2014, CBC News (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

...Right now in Manitoba, distracted driving nets a fine of \$200 and two demerits.

But Mike Mager at CAA Manitoba wants a different type of penalty added to the mix.

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Ontario reviewing relations with border agency - Aiding immigration officers oversteps Transportation Ministry's mandate, critics charge in wake of recent roundup during vehicle safety checks.

August 29, 2014, Toronto Star (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Ontario's Transportation Ministry is rethinking its policy of working with other agencies following a public flap over immigration officials rounding up undocumented workers during a roadside commercial vehicle check.

"The minister has asked officials to review the practices surrounding safety blitzes and our protocols for working with traffic safety partners moving forward," a spokesperson for Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca told the Star Friday.

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SGI says they're reviewing distracted driving law - Province responds to complaint by Saskatoon business

August 29, 2014, CKOM.com (SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN)

A Saskatoon businessman's complaint over the new SGI distracted driving laws has prompted a review from the provincial government.

"We've been inundated with emails and phone calls from Canada Post and other businesses that could be affected by this and people are very concerned this could happen to them," Kevin Boychuk said.

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ICBC warns Labour Day long weekend is one of the most dangerous on B.C. roads

August 28, 2014, ICBC (BURNABY, B.C.)

Every year over the Labour Day long weekend, an average of four people are killed and 560 injured in 1,900 crashes across the province.* Driver distractions, speed and impaired driving are the top contributing factors in Labour Day long weekend casualty crashes.

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Owner upset after employee gets company truck impounded - Owner of K3 Excavating Kevin Boychuk said he's the victim of a technicality

August 27, 2014, CBC News (SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN)

A Saskatoon business owner is upset his vehicle was impounded after an employee was caught using a mobile phone while driving.

Last week, an employee of K3 Excavating was caught for the second time driving while using his phone. This time, he was driving a work truck and the vehicle was impounded for seven days.

Owner Kevin Boychuk said he's the victim of a technicality and it's costing him at least \$800 per day, plus hundreds of dollars in towing and impound fees.

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Motorcyclists front and centre on new safety signs

August 27, 2014, Government of Nova Scotia (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

New provincial highway signs are reminding drivers to look twice for motorcyclists as traffic hits its peak on Nova Scotia roads.

The signs, posted at 12 key locations, are part of a new road safety plan that will promote a number of road safety messages during the year.

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Ontario to put increased fines for distracted driving back on table

August 26, 2014, Globe and Mail (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Drivers in Ontario could soon face much stiffer penalties for texting behind the wheel, as the governing Liberals are set to reintroduce a bill that would boost the maximum fine to \$1,000.

Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca on Tuesday said he plans to reintroduce the distracted driving bill, which died when the June 12 election was called, as “disturbing or worrying trend lines” emerge.

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Texting while driving could lead to \$1,000 fine, 3 demerits

August 25, 2014, Toronto Star (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Drivers who text behind the wheel face fines of up to \$1,000 and three demerit points under tough new provincial legislation coming this fall.

Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca said the sweeping law aimed at curbing distracted will be introduced after the legislature resumes Oct. 20.

...In fact, scofflaws in Ontario would be slapped with the stiffest penalties in Canada for talking or texting on handheld cellphones while driving.

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Back-to-School means everyone's eyes need to be on the road

August 25, 2014, Canada Newswire (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

With back-to-school season upon us, Parachute and FedEx Express Canada today launched the Walk This Way program to keep our children safe.

For over 10 years, FedEx and Parachute have been delivering Walk This Way, a national awareness campaign aimed at reminding parents and drivers about road safety to ensure kids can walk safely to and from school...

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Motorcyclists rally in P.E.I. to promote road safety

August 24, 2014, CBC (CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.)

More than 100 motorcycles were out on P.E.I. roads Sunday to remember those who died in collisions and remind drivers to be careful.

Dave Mallett was among the 160 motorcyclists who took part in the three-hour ride.

"Bikers support bikers, and we always come out for a good cause," Mallett said.

This is the fourth year for the memorial motorcycle ride, created in honour of Paul MacLean and Yvette Arsenault, two avid motorcyclists killed in separate crashes in 2010.

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Patient's privacy rights shouldn't trump public safety

August 24, 2014, Toronto Sun (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Several weeks ago, during an evening shift in my emergency room, a motor vehicle accident victim was brought into my department by ambulance, having suffered minor injuries as a result of her crash.

The patient, a woman in her 40s, had driven her car into the back of another automobile, causing significant damage to her vehicle and injuring the two occupants of the car she struck. As I examined this woman, it became apparent to me she was likely under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident...

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Close the hospital loophole: MADD Canada

August 24, 2014, Toronto Sun (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Many drunk drivers are escaping justice by heading to the emergency room after a crash and leaving innocent victims in their wake, says MADD Canada.

But it's a loophole the group feels the federal government can close by making blood testing mandatory for all motorists involved in collisions with serious injuries or death.

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Medical marijuana, relaxing pot laws could pose public safety risk: experts

August 20, 2014, Global News (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

As federal leaders talk about potentially loosening pot laws, and more patients take advantage of medical marijuana, some experts are warning Canadian roads could become more dangerous.

While quick and effective tests exist for determining whether someone is above the legal alcohol limit, that isn't the case for marijuana.

"I think the overall sentiment is that this is a major road-safety issue," said Dr. Chris Simpson, president of the Canadian Medical Association.

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School buses return to roads soon

August 20, 2014, Canada Safety Council (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Drivers, prepare to stop - back-to-school season is here!

The Canada Safety Council would like to remind motorists that yellow school buses are back on the roads this fall. Remain vigilant, patient and responsible so that everyone gets where they are going safely. Know the law...

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Distracted driving a growing problem

August 19, 2014, CTV News (BARRIE, ONTARIO)

According to the Ontario Provincial Police, distracted driving is likely going to become an even bigger problem on our roads.

Between 2002 and 2011, the Ministry of Transportation is reporting a 39% increase in deaths resulting from inattentive and distracted driving and a 26% spike in injuries as well.

So far in 2014, 31 people have died in collision that were a result of distracted driving on OPP patrolled roads.

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Sikhs denied exemption from Ontario's motorcycle helmet law

August 19, 2014, Toronto Star (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Motorcycle-riding Sikhs in Ontario will not be exempted from the province's helmet law, Premier Kathleen Wynne has decided.

The Canadian Sikh Association says it received a letter last week from Wynne stating the Liberal government, for safety reasons, will not allow Sikh motorcycle riders to wear only turbans as British Columbia and Manitoba currently allow.

"After careful deliberation, we have determined that we will not grant this type of exemption as it would pose a road safety risk. Ultimately, the safety of Ontarians is my utmost priority, and I cannot justify setting that concern aside on this issue," Wynne said in her letter dated Aug. 14.

Wynne said safety trumps religious freedoms in this case.

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Car-pedestrian collision tracking changes in Halifax

August 18, 2014, CBC (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

Halifax Regional Police hope that improving the way they track car-pedestrian collisions will eventually reduce the number of accidents.

A new tracking system began last year, but this month police made some refinements.

Police say they will no longer release individual car-pedestrian collisions publicly when no one is injured.

All incidents will still be tracked, but minor mishaps will be reported monthly.

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Drivers, pedestrians can increase rail safety - Operation Lifesaver Canada encourages alert driving, rail safety education

August 18, 2014, CJME.com (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

Rail crossings in Saskatchewan and Canada are about as safe as they can get, according to the national director of Operation Lifesaver Canada, but drivers and pedestrians can do their part to keep themselves safe.

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Impaired driving focus for August

August 18, 2014, Sherwood Park News (SHERWOOD PARK, ALBERTA)

Alberta's law enforcement officials have dedicated the month of August to the prevention and awareness of impaired driving.

The first strategy of its kind, Alberta Transportation rolled out an all-encompassing Traffic Safety Plan in 2007 aimed at reducing fatalities, injuries and collisions on provincial highways.

The plan included re-engineering roadways to make them safer, coordinating with local law enforcement, passing preventative legislation and, amongst others, educating Albertans about hazardous driving behaviours.

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Distracted driving a growing problem

August 17, 2014, Toronto Sun (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Josh Field, 17, lost control of his car, crossed in front of oncoming traffic and flipped the vehicle into a ditch. The teen died after reaching to answer a ringing cellphone while driving in 2009.

"One moment he was there, then he was gone," said his mother Kathryn, of Belmont, 25 kilometres south of London, Ont.

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2014 & 2015

TAC Fall Technical Meeting

Montreal, Quebec

September 24 - 27, 2014

[Learn more...](#)

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

[Learn more...](#)

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).

Call for Abstracts Now Open!

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

