



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the period September 16th to 30th, 2014

Phone companies called on to combat distracted driving

September 30, 2014, CBC News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Mobile phone companies are coming under pressure to do more to combat the dangers of texting and driving, which now kills more people on Ontario roads than drinking and driving.

"Carriers should get on board and be part of the solution, and be part of the solution, right away," said Brian Patterson of the Ontario Safety League.

"The numbers have risen to a point where it's becoming the number one risk on the road."

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Canadian drivers blame traffic delays for cell phone use

September 30, 2014, Canada Newswire (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Almost 40 per cent of Canadian drivers admit to checking their phones when stopped due to traffic delays, according to a recent nationwide survey on distracted driving, by Leger for Allstate Canada. While stopped at a red light, 34 per cent of drivers said they check their phone and 18 per cent admitted to sending a text. Survey results also found that drivers, age 18 to 34 were nearly three times more likely to send a text while stopped at a red light than older drivers.

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Manitoba offers low-interest financing for winter tire purchases

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

Manitobans getting ready for winter can now apply for low-interest financing toward the purchase of winter tires, the provincial government announced on Monday.

The financing program is being administered by Manitoba Public Insurance and will provide loans up to 48 months in length at prime rate plus two per cent for up to \$2,000 per vehicle.

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Safer roads for communities in northern British Columbia

September 27, 2014, Government of B.C. (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is completing several projects in the northern region to improve community safety and ensure a safe and reliable highway system for British Columbia.

The projects are chosen by the ministry in consultation with local governments and law enforcement, and will benefit recreational and commercial traffic, as well as local residents, commuters and cyclists.

Community safety enhancement projects for the north coast region include...

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Postscript: Put down your phone and drive

September 26, 2014, CTV News (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

...We have become a nation of idiots.

The SAAQ estimates that nearly half of the 40,000 crashes in Quebec last year were linked to distracted driving...

Quebec's laws on this are meek: 3 demerit points and a \$100 fine, but Quebec is talking about tougher penalties and that's a good idea.

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Distraction, speed may have contributed to bus crash: Transportation Safety Board

September 25, 2014, Ottawa Citizen (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Moments before his bus slammed into the side of a passing train, OC Transpo driver Dave Woodard's attention had seemingly been distracted, perhaps just for a moment, by a small video screen in his cabin. It showed a passenger standing on the upper level of the bus.

Seconds later, Woodard heard the screams of the passengers, and partially applied the brakes. He had been driving a little more than seven kilometres over the posted 60 km/h speed limit.

These are the facts that emerged Wednesday, as investigators with the Canada Transportation Safety Board painted a fuller picture of the deadly morning last year when the OC Transpo bus crashed into a Via train near Fallowfield station, killing the bus driver and five passengers.

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[For the TSB's progress report, click here...](#)

Quebec considers demerit points for drivers who text

September 24, 2014, CTV News (QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC)

Quebec Transport Minister Robert Poeti is considering tougher sanctions against drivers who are caught texting, including hitting them with four demerit points.

Currently, Quebec motorists caught texting can lose three points and be fined up to \$100.

Poeti said Wednesday it is difficult to assess the extent of the problem but added that many accidents are caused by motorists using their smartphones while at the wheel.

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City of Ottawa working to make a safer ride

September 24, 2014, Ottawa Sun (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The city is taking the Transportation Safety Board's safety letters seriously and has already initiated five changes to current practices.

However, as OC Transpo boss John Manconi points out, all that's been asked of the city at this point is to review.

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Seat belt-related road deaths headed for ten-year low says OPP

September 22, 2014, Canada Newswire (ORILLIA, ONTARIO)

While getting road users to be 100 per cent compliant with seat belt laws remains a challenging goal, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) sees motorists taking a step in the right direction with 2014 seat belt-related fatalities on track to being the lowest in ten years.

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Distracted driving kills more people than drunk driving

September 22, 2014, Driving.ca (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

We all know that texting and driving is dangerous, yet some continue to risk their lives and those of others with this and other distractions behind the wheel.

Statistics show distracted driving is the second-leading cause of car crash fatalities in this province, behind impaired driving. On average, 88 people are killed each year in B.C. due to driver distractions, about 30 of them right here in the Lower Mainland.

The provincial government and ICBC have launched a campaign to once again remind people about the implications of texting, reading or doing other things behind the wheel other than just driving.

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ICBC's tips for parents and drivers in time for back to school

September 22, 2014, ICBC (BURNABY, B.C.)

As children head back to school, ICBC is encouraging parents to review the rules of the road with their children and go over their daily route to and from school.

In B.C., on average, five child pedestrians aged five to 18 are killed and 290 injured in 270 car crashes every year.*

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Is your school crossing guard one of Canada's favourites?

September 22, 2014, Cornwall Free News (CORNWALL, ONTARIO)

Nominations are now being accepted for Canada's Favourite Crossing Guards. If you know a school crossing guard who is currently working and does an exceptional job at keeping kids safe, tell us why they should be selected as one of Canada's favourites.

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New county traffic safety plan announced

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

As far as Strathcona County is concerned, traffic safety doesn't stop when a child leaves the classroom.

Strathcona County council almost unanimously approved the Traffic Safety Strategic Plan (TSSP) 2020 during its meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

"The vision of the TSSP 2020 is that no one will be seriously injured or killed while travelling on Strathcona County's road network," said county traffic safety liaison advisor Debbie Rawson.

"The 2020 plan aligns with international, national, provincial and regional visions for traffic safety," added Ryan Anders, manager of traffic engineering and safety for the county.

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Fatal crashes can be avoided, roads expert says

September 17, 2014, CBC News (SUDBURY, ONTARIO)

In the past month there have been several deadly collisions on highways in northeastern Ontario. But some road safety advocates believe it's possible to reach zero fatal crashes through changes to car and road design.

According to Neil Arason, the only acceptable number of deaths on the roads is zero.

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Do distracted driving laws cover smartwatches?

September 17, 2014, CBC News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Is using a smartwatch behind the wheel a ticketable offence under the country's distracted driving laws?

It's up to the police to decide, says Ontario's Transportation Ministry.

We're not sure yet, says a spokesman for Ontario's provincial police force.

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Inspections make NWT roads and highways safer during Brake Safety Week

September 17, 2014, Government of N.W.T. (YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.)

Department of Transportation staff continued to ensure the safety of NWT roads and highways by conducting brake inspections in four communities last week.

“Safe driving is everyone’s responsibility, and all drivers need to keep their vehicles in safe operating condition,” said Minister of Transportation Tom Beaulieu. “If your brakes aren’t working, you are a hazard to yourself and to other drivers.”

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2014 & 2015

National Teen Driver Safety Week

Various Events across Canada

October 19-25, 2014

[Learn more about Project Gearshift](#)

[Learn more about IKnowEverything Campaign](#)

National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims

National Event

Glenn Gould Studio, Toronto, Ontario

November 19, 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 Deadline Oct 31, 2014

Delta Ottawa City Centre

Ottawa, Ontario

May 27 - 30, 2015

[Learn more...](#)

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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

