



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the period October 16th to 31st, 2014

B.C.-made app aims to end texting while driving

October 27, 2014, Business In Vancouver (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

If Whitney Anderson has her way, there will come a time when even if you wanted to use a hand-held smartphone while behind the wheel, you won't be able to.

The Grade 10 student at Prince George's Westside Academy has been working on a software application that automatically shuts down a device once you're going over 20 kilometres per hour.

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[View a video about this app...](#)

Tough impaired driving laws in B.C. working - Study shows that vehicle accidents have dropped since new penalties were imposed

October 24, 2014, Driving.ca (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

Everyone knows that drinking alcohol and getting behind the wheel is dangerous. It can also be deadly.

B.C. changed its drinking and driving laws in 2010 to build in stricter penalties for impaired drivers...

...A new study from the University of B.C. shows that fatal crashes, ambulance calls and hospital admissions resulting from motor-vehicle crashes have dropped since the new laws were imposed.

Car crashes have also been curbed. According to the UBC research, vehicle crashes were down 21 per cent, crash-related hospital admissions dropped eight per cent and crash-related ambulance calls fell 7.2 per cent.

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CAA SCO recognized with Sweet Life Road Safety Champion Award

October 24, 2014, Canada Newswire (MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO)

Car crashes continue to be one of the leading causes of death and injury to teens.

"Every 72 hours we lose a teen in a crash. Every 30 minutes, a teen goes to hospital with a crash-related injury. Many of them will never be the same again. Almost 100 per cent are preventable," said Anne Marie Hayes, President of Teens Learn to Drive and creator of Sweet Life Road Show.

As part of National Teen Driver Safety Week and in partnership with Teens Learn to Drive Inc., the students of Loyola Catholic Secondary School will present CAA South Central Ontario (CAA SCO) with a Sweet Life Road Safety Champion Award.

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Teens, be smart while driving with your smartphone

October 23, 2014, Marketwired (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

October 19-25 is National Teen Driver Safety Week (#NTDSW) according to Parachute Canada, a charitable organization dedicated to saving lives and the creator of the #NTDSW initiative. TELUS and Young Drivers of Canada have teamed up this National Teen Driver Safety Week to raise awareness of the issue and provide teens and their parents with useful tips to help avoid smartphone distractions while driving and impart positive behaviours to help stop it for good.

According to Parachute Canada, while young people only make up 13 per cent of all licensed drivers, they account for approximately one quarter of all road-related injuries and fatalities, most of which are preventable. As if being a new, young driver isn't enough, teens are closely connected to their smartphones and all the tempting distractions that come with them.

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Changes proposed for graduated driver's licence program

October 23, 2014, Government of Nova Scotia (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

...The three proposed changes to the program, and effective dates, are:

- Drivers must maintain zero blood alcohol content for two years after they complete the learner/beginner and newly licenced phases of the program. This new requirement is effective April 1, 2015.
- Supervisory drivers must be fully licenced for at least two years after they complete the learner/beginner and newly licensed phases of the program. Currently a new driver can be a supervisory driver immediately after getting a full licence. This will be effective April 1, 2015.
- The learner/beginner phase of the program will be 12 months. Currently the learner/beginner phase is six months. It will still be possible to have three months taken off the phase if an approved driver training program is completed. This will be effective April 1, 2016...

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Nova Scotia's proposed legislation will improve safety for new and young drivers, says MADD Canada

October 23, 2014, Marketwired (OAKVILLE, ONTARIO)

MADD Canada welcomes proposed legislation, announced by the Government of Nova Scotia today, to improve the safety of new drivers and reduce impaired driving.

If passed, the proposed legislation would require all new drivers to maintain a .00% BAC level when driving for two years after completion of the Graduated Driver's Licence (GDL) program.

"Extending the zero BAC requirement for young and new drivers beyond the driver training period is a proven effective way of reducing impaired driving and improving road safety," said MADD Canada Chief Executive Officer Andrew Murie. "This new legislation will help reduce the incidence of impaired driving, and will help new and young drivers establish good driving practices that separate drinking from driving."

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Alberta's collision statistics: making moves in the right direction

October 23, 2014, Government of Alberta (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

While the numbers fluctuate from year-to-year, traffic fatalities have declined by 22 per cent since Alberta's first Traffic Safety Plan was introduced in 2007. The number of fatalities has dropped from 458 fatalities in 2007 to 358 in 2013.

There were a total of 141,638 collisions and 18,650 injuries on the roads last year - which is an increase of more than 5,000 collisions compared to 2012.

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Road safety initiatives applauded

October 23, 2014, InsideHalton.com (OAKVILLE, ONTARIO)

Halton Regional Police are continuing this month to engage in various traffic safety and enforcement initiatives as part of their overall traffic strategy for the region.

According to police, the initiatives are in response to the public's indication in surveys that traffic safety is a primary concern of Halton residents....

...This week, traffic services officers are joining the district response units of the four Halton municipalities to engage in Operation Safe Driver, a North America-wide campaign geared toward both commercial and private vehicle safety.

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Drug-impaired driving: a fatal issue for Canadian teens

October 22, 2014, Canada Newswire (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

While the effects of alcohol consumption when driving are well documented, there is growing concern that drug-impaired driving is just as dangerous, particularly amongst teen drivers. In fact, recent findings indicate that the number of teen fatalities from auto collisions who tested positive for drugs rose significantly between 2000 and 2010 to a level comparable to those who tested positive for alcohol.

A new review of secondary research by the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) shows that in 2000, a greater percentage of fatally injured 16-19 year old drivers tested positive for alcohol than for drugs (40.3 per cent versus 23.6 percent). However, in 2010, while alcohol related fatalities decreased slightly to 36.6 per cent, drug related fatalities among 16-19 year old drivers increased by roughly 16 per cent to 39.2 percent, suggesting that the two issues have become equally important to address.

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ACTIVE-AURORA project launched at the University of Alberta

October 22, 2014, Canada Newswire (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

The Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Transport, along with the Honourable Wayne Drysdale, Minister of Transportation of the Province of Alberta; Councillor Mike Nickel of the City of Edmonton; and Dr. Glen Baker, Associate Vice-President (Research) of the University of Alberta, today announced the launch of the ACTIVE-AURORA project, a unique and innovative project to advance connected vehicle technology. The launch took place during the International Conference on Transportation Innovation (ICTI), being held at the University of Alberta.

This project is a first for Canada. It will provide the opportunity for organizations to test and evaluate new and emerging connected vehicle systems, applications and services. Connected vehicles use wireless mobile devices that are present in a car or a truck to exchange information in real time with road-side equipment like traffic lights or message signs, and with other vehicles. For example, researchers will be able to test systems that would let a driver know that a collision has happened up ahead, or that traffic is slowing after the next exit, which could be used to improve traffic flow as well as safety.

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Department recognizes National Teen Driver Safety Week

October 22, 2014, Government of P.E.I. (CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.)

Islanders are reminded to leave the phone alone when behind the wheel as part of National Teen Driver Safety Week, says Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Minister Robert Vessey.

“Taking your eyes off the road, even for a couple of seconds, is dangerous and can cause a serious collision. Islanders should follow the rules of the road and never drive while texting,” said the minister. “Everyone, regardless of age, has a role to play in creating lifelong safe driving habits and keeping our Island roads safe.”

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Improving Road Safety - Province Introducing New Legislation to Make Ontario's Roads Safer

October 21, 2014, Government of Ontario (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Ontario is introducing legislation that, if passed, would help keep the province's roads among the safest in North America by reducing collisions, injuries and fatalities.

If passed, the proposed legislation and supporting amendments to the Highway Traffic Act will make highways and roads safer by:

- Increasing fines for distracted driving from its current range of \$60 to \$500 to a range of \$300 to \$1,000; assigning three demerit points upon conviction; and adding distracted driving to the existing list of novice driver conditions.
- Applying current alcohol impaired sanctions to drivers who are drug impaired.
- Introducing additional measures to address repeat offenders of alcohol impaired driving.
- Requiring drivers to wait until a pedestrian has completely crossed the road before proceeding at school crossings and pedestrian crossovers....

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ICBC launches pedestrian safety campaign

October 21, 2014, Global News (BURNABY, B.C.)

It could be called ironic that on the same day ICBC launches a new safety campaign, asking pedestrians to be extra vigilant at this time of year, two pedestrian-involved collisions happened.

One accident in Richmond claimed the life of an elderly man and the other, a teen in Abbotsford needed to be airlifted to hospital after being hit by a car.

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760 people caught speeding in school zones

October 21, 2014, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

Police issued 760 tickets to drivers speeding in school zones during September's province-wide traffic safety spotlight focusing on school zone safety.

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Warning: If you're a distracted driver, it's going to cost you

October 20, 2014, Government of B.C. (VICTORIA, B.C.)

Starting October 20, 2014, changes to the Motor Vehicle Act regulations means an increase in driver penalty points (from 0 to 3) for those caught talking on a handheld device while driving. This new penalty also covers:

- watching a DVD,
- programming a phone's GPS.
- operating hand-held audio players.

The points will be combined with the \$167 fine that already exists and makes it all now in line with the penalty currently given to drivers for texting.

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Eastman Region worst in province for deer-vehicle collisions: Manitoba Public Insurance releases Top 5 list

October 20, 2014, MPI (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

The Eastman Region — which includes communities Steinbach, Lac du Bonnet, Anola, Birds Hill Park area and Falcon Lake — is the province's No. 1 area for vehicle-deer collisions. There are about 1,600 collisions yearly within this region, based on statistics collected by Manitoba Public Insurance from 2007 to 2013.

Motorists are encouraged to exercise extra care and caution during October and November — the two worst months for deer-vehicle collisions.

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Why are deadly rail crossings still in our neighbourhoods?

October 20, 2014, Globe and Mail (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Just over a year ago, five passengers and the driver of an Ottawa city bus were killed in a horrific crash with a Via Rail train at a level crossing in the booming suburb of Barrhaven.

A preliminary investigation by Canada's Transportation Safety Board has pointed to driver distraction from a closed-circuit TV monitor and speed as possible contributing factors. Since the accident, measures have been taken to improve sight lines and reduce signal failures to make the crossing safer.

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Vancouver Island bus driver defies policy on announcing stops

October 20, 2014, Vancouver Sun (VICTORIA, B.C.)

Veteran B.C. Transit driver Joe Hronek expects to be disciplined one of these days for refusing to call out each of the estimated 500 stops on his daily routes as required by the company to serve visually impaired passengers.

The Colwood resident, who has 33 accident-free years out of 34, says the policy is unsafe and constitutes distracted driving, and that more than 100 other drivers share his view.

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National Teen Driver Safety Week Oct. 19 - 25

November 20, 2014, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

New driver August Becker leaves his cellphone alone every time he drives.

"You just shouldn't text and drive, it's a stupid thing to do. I put my cellphone in my pocket where I can't get at it to make sure it doesn't come out," said Becker, 16, who received his driver's licence two months ago.

National Teen Driver Safety Week, Oct. 19 - 25, aims to help more teens think like Becker.

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National Teen Driver Safety Week

November 19, 2014, Newstalk1010 (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Between October 19 - 24, 2014, teenagers, parents and opinion leaders across Canada will be participating in this campaign.

#PracticeSafeText is the message that will be shared with Canadian teenagers and drivers in communities throughout the country as part of Parachute's National Teen Driver Safety Week (NTDSW), taking place from October 19 - 24. The national public awareness campaign is being aimed at teenagers to stop texting and driving as well as reduce distracted, aggressive and impaired driving - the leading cause of death among teens.

In Canada, distracted driving contributes to more serious injuries than impaired driving or speeding...

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Quebec getting more photo radars

October 19, 2014, CJAD News (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

Quebec will apparently have three times more photo radars.

A report says the number of photo radars will increase to 56 from 18.

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Youth conference tackles Saskatchewan's high impaired driving rate

October 18, 2014, Global News (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

“It’s really important that we start young and that they gain that knowledge before they’re out there in the community and that they can go back to their peers and say, ‘Hey, you know what, I’m not letting you make this decision tonight,’ and it being okay,” said Meaghann White, president of the organization.

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Province of Ontario seeks mandatory training for new truck drivers

October 17, 2014, LandLineMag.com (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The top transportation official in the Canadian province of Ontario is calling for mandatory entry-level driver training for truck drivers.

Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca issued a statement saying he’s working with Reza Moridi, who is the Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, to make sure the government is on the same page about training and licensing.

“The safety of our roads and its users is always our number one priority. It is a responsibility that I personally take very seriously,” Del Duca said in the statement.

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2014 & 2015

Countermeasures XX Conference Arrive Alive Drive Sober's Biannual Conference

Theme: Trails and Waterways

Holiday Inn Yorkdale
November 16-17, 2014

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Road Safety Audits – Latest Guidance and Best Practices

By C-TEP

C-TEP, Calgary Alberta
November 18-19, 2014

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National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims

National Event

Glenn Gould Studio, Toronto, Ontario
November 19, 2014

[Learn more...](#)

Transportation Engineering in the Age of Self-Driving Cars

Free Webinar

November 19, 2014

[Learn more and/or register here...](#)

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).

Theme: Road Safety: The Road Ahead
Call for Abstracts Deadline Extended to
November 21, 2014

Delta Ottawa City Centre
Ottawa, Ontario
May 27 - 30, 2015

[Learn more...](#)

Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers (CITE) 2015 Conference Theme: Supporting a Healthy Vibrant Community

Call for Abstracts Deadline Nov 15, 2014

Regina, Saskatchewan
June 7-10, 2015

[Learn more...](#)

CCMTA Annual Meeting

Yukon Convention Centre
Whitehorse, Yukon
June 16-19, 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

