



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the period December 16th to 31st, 2014

Ring in the new year responsibly; Plan a sober ride home

December 30, 2014, MADD Canada (OAKVILLE, ONTARIO)

As Canadians mark the end of 2014 and welcome a new year, MADD Canada and Allstate Canada want to thank the millions of people who are doing their part to end impaired driving.

"So many people have made the commitment to never drive impaired, and they take that responsibility seriously," said MADD Canada National President Angeliki Souranis. "They plan ahead for alternate transportation, and they share the sober driving message with family and friends. We are truly grateful to all those who are doing their part to prevent impaired driving."

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Police report surge in impaired driving arrests in York

December 30, 2014, eCanada Now (YORK REGION, ONTARIO)

York Regional Police published their annual statistics on the program called Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE), a sobriety testing plan that has been in effect since 1977. The RIDE numbers indicate that both the police and the general public have done an effective job at cracking down on impaired-driving. A public campaign has heightened the awareness that everyone has about the dangers of impaired driving...

...For the year ending 2014, the number of impaired driving arrests have surged from 868 to 1,354. No one is suggesting that locals have been hitting the bottle at higher rates than in the past. Rather, the increase is due to a public crackdown on drunk drivers. As per Const. Andy Pattenden, the spokesman for York Regional Police, the number reflect a very low tolerance the public has against those who get behind a wheel while under the effects of alcohol. Police are getting more 911 calls from concerned citizens.

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Shannon Moneo: Treat distracted driving like drunk driving

December 29, 2014, Ottawa Citizen (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Across Canada, the cellphone has become the new beer bottle. Instead of being incapacitated by booze, drivers are immobilized by their mobile devices.

In 2013 in B.C., distracted driving caused 77 of 269 road deaths. Speed contributed to 78 deaths, and alcohol/drugs led to 63 fatalities. During 2014, almost 58,000 tickets were issued for distracted driving in B.C. The Ontario Provincial Police said that distracted driving was the number one killer in road deaths they investigated in 2013, suggesting that it has surpassed drunk driving as a risk on our roads.

Yet distracted driving still doesn't carry the social taboo or the penalties that drunk driving does. How do we stop smartphone addicts from behaving not-so-smart behind the wheel?

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More than 200,000 tickets issued for distracted driving in B.C. - Many drivers are still using their phones behind the wheel despite hundreds of thousands of tickets

December 23, 2014, CBC News (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

In a recent crackdown in North Vancouver on distracted drivers, there was no shortage of people seen breaking the law.

That's one reason a whopping 209,000 tickets for distracted driving when using a cellphone have been issued since it became illegal in B.C. in January 2010.

Each month this year, an average of 4,800 tickets have been written for talking, texting and other activities using electronic devices while driving.

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A police car as a taxi? ICBC shares B.C.'s best designated driver stories

December 19, 2014, ICBC (BURNABY, B.C.)

Mistaking a police car for a taxi, dropping an intoxicated friend off at the wrong house and getting cash tips from passengers who thought they were in a cab are just some of the experiences designated drivers across the province have shared with ICBC.

ICBC is sharing stories like these to raise awareness and encourage drivers to take their turn as the designated driver and plan a safe ride home if they'll be drinking at holiday parties and get-togethers.

In the last five years, 11 people have been killed and 36 seriously injured in impaired driving related crashes in B.C. between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day.*

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OPP dealing with numerous truck collisions on Ontario roads

December 19, 2014, Canada Newswire (ORILLIA, ONTARIO)

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is concerned about the more than 1,200 commercial motor vehicle (CMV) collisions it has responded to so far this winter and that not all CMV drivers are on board with the OPP's call for motorists to change their driving behaviours and help reduce the number of collisions on Ontario roads...

...The OPP continues to see large trucks lose control and roll over when the drivers ignore posted ramp speed advisory signs and fail to slow down when travelling on highway on/off ramps. With months of winter driving remaining, this is a particularly important time for drivers of large commercial trucks to drive within the speed limit and to slow right down when weather and road conditions deteriorate.

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Canadians complacent about drinking and driving: Poll

December 18, 2014, Canada Newswire (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

A new Road Safety Monitor (RSM) poll conducted by the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) and sponsored by Beer Canada and the Toyota Canada Foundation reveals that the percentage of respondents who regard drinking and driving as a major road safety concern has consistently decreased from a high of 88.0% in 2006 to 73.1% in 2014. The public opinion poll conducted in October and November 2014 investigated the attitudes, behaviours and actions of Canadians in relation to drinking and driving as well as trends.

"One theory for this decline is the increase in competing priorities during the past few years around other high profile road safety issues such as distracted driving, drugged driving, and young drivers," explains Dr. Ward Vanlaar, TIRF Vice President Research. "While other road safety messages are typically promoted year-round, Canadians may perceive drinking and driving as an issue that more often occurs around the holiday season."

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Four exceptional school crossing guards chosen as Canada's favourites

December 18, 2014, Parachute (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Four exceptional individuals have been selected as winners of Canada's Favourite Crossing Guard Contest for 2014. Over the next few days, they each will be awarded this honour in their community.

An initiative of Parachute, a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to an injury-free Canada with Canadians living long lives to the fullest, and FedEx Express Canada, Canada's Favourite Crossing Guard Contest honours the extraordinary contributions of dynamic individuals who help keep our children safe...

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Fatality map makes for sobering campaign

December 18, 2014, AppliedArtsMagazine.com (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

With winter upon us, DDB Canada Edmonton's latest project for Coalition for a Safer 63 and 881 is a useful reminder to be safe not only during the season, but throughout the year.

The agency worked with data visualization studio FFunction to produce the Fatality Map, an interactive website that has users "drive" on two of Alberta's most dangerous highways (63 and 881), accessing information on past accidents and hazards along the way.

"Telling someone what to do has only so much impact – but being able to feel the weight of these incidents through an interactive drive will likely cause people to consider their driving behaviours long after the experience ends," says Laurie Kellough, account director at DDB Canada Edmonton, to Applied Arts via email.

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[Go to the Fatality Map...](#)

Judge raps ready-to-text driver - Ruling in 2013 MVA case in Timberlea finds that looking at phone constitutes using it

December 18, 2014, The Chronical Herald (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

It's illegal to talk on a cellphone while you're driving.

It's illegal to text while you drive, too.

And a Nova Scotia Supreme Court judge ruled earlier this week that holding your cellphone and looking at it in anticipation that a message might come in constitutes distracted driving as well.

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Make holiday road safety a priority

December 18, 2014, Government of Nova Scotia (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

People can do themselves, and their families, a favour by staying safe on Nova Scotia's roads this holiday season.

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The Government of Canada introduces new railway regulations to reduce accidents and save lives

December 17, 2014, Canada Newswire (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Transport, today announced regulations to help prevent accidents and improve railway safety. The new Grade Crossings Regulations establish new safety standards for federally-regulated grade crossings. Amendments to the Transportation Information Regulations will help identify and address safety risks proactively.

A grade crossing, also known as a road or level crossing, is where a railway line crosses a road at the same level. Railway companies and road authorities (provinces, municipalities, band councils, and private crossing owners) are all responsible for managing railway crossing safety in Canada. After extensive consultation with stakeholders across the country, the Government of Canada is introducing new Grade Crossings Regulations.

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Betty Taylor: Three decades of safety

December 16, 2014, Truck News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The expression “safety comes first” is something heard a lot in the transportation industry, but for Betty Taylor, it is an expression she lives and breathes by. Taylor has been involved in the transportation sector of Ontario’s health and safety system for more than 32 years...

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Distracted driving and impaired driving lethal mix – Manitoba Public Insurance calling for safe holiday season

December 16, 2014, MPI (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Nearly 50 people are killed yearly on Manitoba roadways due to the deadly combination of distracted driving and alcohol-related collisions, according to Manitoba Public Insurance...

...“Fatalities on Manitoba roadways have been steadily declining over the last two decades,” said MaryAnn Kempe, Vice-President, Business Development, Communications & Chief Product Officer, Manitoba Public Insurance.

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Body cams could help nail distracted drivers: Calgary police chief

December 16, 2014, Metro (CALGARY, ALBERTA)

City cops will likely turn to their shiny new body-worn cameras in 2015 to obtain candid evidence of motorists caught chatting on a handheld phones or texting behind the wheel, says the police chief.

Rick Hanson told Metro in a year-end interview on Monday that his officers are facing a great deal of scrutiny from the courts as they attempt to put a dent in the chronic problem of inattentive drivers.

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Councillor says Calgary should consider 'distracted walking' fine

December 16, 2014, Yahoo Canada News (CALGARY, ALBERTA)

Wandering into traffic without looking both ways; bumping into passersby while your head is in the Cloud; tripping while texting.

This isn't how we were trained as children to act while walking near traffic. Yet more often than ever before, Canadians seem to be taking their safety for granted by walking while distracted.

And one Calgary city councillor thinks it has to stop.

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More than 1,500 motorists caught driving at unsafe speeds in November

December 16, 2014, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

November's traffic safety spotlight focusing on safe winter driving saw more than 1,500 motorists ticketed for driving too fast.

In total, police around the province issued 1,559 tickets related to unsafe speed, including:

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Alberta considering making changes to Temporary Foreign Workers' drivers' licensing

December 16, 2014, CBC News (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

Alberta is considering changing how soon temporary foreign workers must switch over to a provincial driver's licence.

Alberta Transportation is in the midst of reviewing the Traffic Safety Act and has issued a public survey to collect input and identify ways Alberta's roads could be made safer.

One question up for debate is when TFWs should be required to get an Alberta licence.

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2014 & 2015

Call for Nominations

TAC Technical Excellence Awards

Submission Deadline: February 13, 2015

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

Theme: Road Safety: The Road Ahead

Delta Ottawa City Centre

Ottawa, Ontario

May 27 - 30, 2015

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Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers (CITE) 2015 Conference

Theme: Supporting a Healthy Vibrant
Community

Regina, Saskatchewan

June 7-10, 2015

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CCMTA Annual Meeting

Yukon Convention Centre

Whitehorse, Yukon

June 16-19, 2015

[Learn more...](#)

Prepared by:
The Canadian Association of Road Safety
Professionals (CARSP)

Email: info@carsp.ca

Web: www.carsp.ca

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

