



# Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the period January 16<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

## Queen's Park considering lower speed limits in cities and towns

January 29, 2015, Toronto Star (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Queen's Park is looking at ways to curb speed limits in Ontario cities and towns, including lowering the standard from 50 km/h.

In a bid to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca will begin "comprehensive consultations" with municipalities across the province to discuss changes.

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## Canada Safety Council calls on Ontario to enact zero tolerance for speeding

January 29, 2015, Canada Safety Council (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

In the interests of public safety, the Canada Safety Council calls on Ontario Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca to introduce a zero tolerance policy for speeding. While the ministry is currently considering a reduction in the default speed limit in cities and towns, the Canada Safety Council believes a more effective tactic would be to introduce and enforce real penalties for speeding.

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## **P.E.I. impaired driving arrests continue to fall**

January 29, 2015, CBC News (CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.)

RCMP in Prince Edward Island have looked at the numbers for 2014 and say arrests for impaired driving were down again last year, thanks to vigilant members of the public.

The numbers have been dropping for several years now. In 2011, 300 people were charged province-wide and the numbers have dropped every year since.

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## **Women driving impaired on the rise**

January 22, 2015, Ottawa Sun (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

...According to Statistics Canada, the overwhelming number of people charged with impaired driving are still male -- 82% in fact. While the impaired driving rate for males has been steadily declining for the past 25 years, the trend for females has been somewhat different.

The impaired driving rate for females declined until 1997, remained stable between 1997 and 2005, and then generally increased. As a result, females now account for one in every six impaired drivers, compared to one in 13 in 1986.

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## **Operation Ringtone launched by RNC to curb distracted driving**

January 22, 2015, CBC News (ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND)

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary has launched a new campaign to send a strong message about using a cellphone while behind the wheel.

It comes in the wake of what police say is a serious problem with people texting while driving.

...As part of the campaign, the RNC are putting officers in construction clothing --to bust people who are driving distracted.

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## Ontario's bilingual electronic highway signs going colour

January 20, 2015, Government of Ontario Ministry of Transportation  
(TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Ontario is introducing bilingual, full-colour electronic highway signs that include images to help keep drivers safe and manage traffic conditions.

The use of colour, along with internationally-recognized images and symbols, with less text on the new signs allows drivers to easily see important road safety information and react to traffic conditions or choose alternate routes.

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## Nova Scotia boosting penalties for texting and driving

January 20, 2015, Global News (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

The Nova Scotia government is reminding motorists that it will soon increase fines for drivers who use hand-held electronic devices behind the wheel while also taking demerit points from their licences.

Transportation Minister Geoff MacLellan says distracted driving is as serious as impaired driving and the bigger fines and loss of demerit points is aimed at influencing the behaviour of drivers.

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## Canadian high school students help put the brakes on distracted driving

January 20, 2015, Market Wired (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

...A recent survey conducted by Allstate Insurance Company of Canada revealed that almost 40 per cent of Canadian drivers check their phones when stopped due to traffic delays. And drivers, age 18 to 34, were nearly three times more likely to send a text while stopped at a red light than older drivers.

That's why Allstate Canada launched the national Just Drive Canada campaign: to help equip high school students, their parents and teachers, with the knowledge and tools to become smarter drivers and encourage them to actively speak out on the issue...

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## Expand licensing requirements to further reduce teen driver crashes

January 20, 2015, TIRF (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Today the National Safety Council (NSC) and the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) released a report on Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL), A New GDL Framework: Evidence Base to Integrate Novice Driver Strategies, <http://bit.ly/GDLframework>. The report's strategies for reducing teen driver car crashes are developed from evidence-based initiatives. The report also includes strategies based on expert opinion and identifies areas where more research is needed.

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## Richmond tests new way to slow down traffic

January 20, 2015, BC Local News (RICHMOND, B.C.)

City of Richmond officials are testing a new low-cost way of slowing down traffic near a Broadmoor area elementary school that, if successful, could spread to other neighbourhoods.

In-street school zone markers have been installed on the Tweedsmuir Avenue outside Maple Lane Elementary. The signs, which clearly mark the 30 km/h speed zone, narrow the road, "thereby modifying driver behaviour and encouraging drivers to slow down," according to a new report from city transportation planner Joan Caravan

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## Designate A Driver: Business aims to curb St. John's drunk driving

January 19, 2015, CBC News (ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND)

Designating a driver among a group of friends is a well-established practice, but soon St. John's party-goers who have had one too many will not have to rely on the kindness of a friend. They'll be able to pay someone to ensure they get home safe and sound, and that their vehicle will, too.

Marcus Tucker decided to launch his new company, Designate A Driver (DAD), after working outside the province for a number of years.

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## 21- to 30-year-olds largest group of impaired drivers on P.E.I.

January 19, 2015, CBC News (CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.)

RCMP on P.E.I. have released the final statistics for impaired driving in 2014, with details on charges laid in Prince County.

The statistics for Prince County, released Monday, show a different pattern from the other two counties in terms of the ages of those charged. Like Queens County the largest group was 21- to 30-year-olds, but the second largest group was those aged 41 to 50, which was a relatively small group in both Queens and Kings County.

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## Manitoba's roadways were safer this year

January 17, 2015, Winnipeg Free Press (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Manitoba's highways and rural roads were significantly safer in 2014, with a drop in the number of people killed in vehicle collisions. There were 68 fatal collisions with 73 people killed in 2014, compared with 81 crashes and 95 deaths in 2013. Cpl. Mark Hume, who's an officer at RCMP's West District Traffic Services and a forensic collision reconstructionist, says he thinks the "message is starting to get across."

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## Canada Safety Council advocates for seatbelts on coach buses

January 16, 2015, Canada Safety Council (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

In the wake of Wednesday's tragic bus rollover north of Toronto, the Canada Safety Council would like to reiterate its support for the installation and use of seatbelts in intercity coach tour buses.

Buses of all kinds are among the safest modes of transport, and serious collisions involving buses are relatively rare. But when serious collisions occur, rollovers and ejections are the major cause of fatalities to passengers.

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## **Simulator brings home dangers of texting and driving**

January 16, 2015, The Prince George Citizen (PRINCE GEORGE, B.C.)

Some future drivers got an idea Thursday of just how hard it is to text and drive at the same time with the help of a video-based simulator.

Between the touchy controls and the voice of an annoying passenger who refuses to wear his seatbelt, things were already difficult for the even the most experienced drivers, let alone a class of Grade 10 students from Nechako Valley Secondary School in Vanderhoof.

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## **Does having cellphone held between ear, shoulder count as hands-free while driving?**

January 15, 2015, CTV News (WHITEHORSE, YUKON)

A Yukon man who successfully challenged a distracted driving ticket in Yukon court said he did not break territorial law when he used his cellphone while driving.

Ian Pumphrey, 48, of Marsh Lake, Yukon told CTV News he got a ticket for using an electronic device while driving on Aug. 28.

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## Canadian Events & Conferences in 2015

**Scholarship for Safety Initiative -  
The Sarah Beth Therien Memorial  
Scholarship, Canada Safety Council**  
Open to graduating high school students and  
full-time post-secondary students.  
Submission Deadline: January 31 - June 15,  
2015  
[Learn more...](#)

**Call for Nominations  
TAC Technical Excellence Awards**  
Submission Deadline: February 13, 2015  
[Learn more...](#)

**7th International Conference on Urban  
Traffic Safety**  
**Theme: Building Safer Communities  
Through the Safe System Approach**  
Shaw Conference Centre  
Edmonton, Alberta.  
April 27-30, 2015  
[Learn more...](#)

**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  
[Learn more...](#)

**Canadian Institute of Transportation  
Engineers (CITE) 2015 Conference**  
**Theme: Supporting a Healthy Vibrant  
Community**  
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](mailto:info@carsp.ca)

