



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the period February 16th to 28th, 2015

Judge strikes down challenge to a 2012 amendment to Alberta's impaired driving laws - Offenders could lose licenses until their cases are dealt with in court

February 28, 2015, Calgary Sun (CALGARY, ALBERTA)

Alberta motorists accused of impaired driving will continue to face indefinite driver's licence suspensions, a judge ruled Friday.

In a written ruling handed down Friday by Court of Queen's Bench Justice Thomas Wakeling, a 2012 amendment to the province's Traffic Safety Act imposing licence suspensions for drivers accused of blood alcohol levels greater than 0.08 isn't unconstitutional.

"There is nothing objectionable about the duration of Alberta's administrative licence suspension," he wrote in the decision.

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City and Transportation Department fined \$60,000 each for role in engineer's death

February 27, 2015, Daily Business Buzz (ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND)

...In December 2014, at the end of the trial, the city and the department were found guilty of seven counts each of violating Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) regulations by failing to do all they could to ensure the safety of their employees.

They failed to provide proper information, training, instruction and supervision to employees; failed to ensure the necessary protective clothing and devices were used by employees; and failed to ensure safe work procedures were followed.

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Increased infractions not deterring distracted drivers

February 27, 2015, CTV News (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

While B.C. police are planning a major crackdown on distracted driving for the month of March, it appears drivers in the province aren't getting the message.

The number of tickets issued has climbed every year since distracted driving laws came into effect in 2010, according to figures obtained by CTV News.

According to ICBC, 54,600 tickets were handed out in 2014 for emailing or texting while driving and using an electronic device behind the wheel - a value of \$9,139,000.

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Keeping safe on quads

February 25, 2015, Canada Safety Council (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Economical, versatile and fun, all-terrain vehicles have long been indispensable tools on Canadian farms and ranches. But as the size, power and popularity of ATVs has increased, so too has the potential for serious injuries.

This National Farm Safety Week, March 14-20, why not review the facts about ATVs and make sure you and your family are riding safe?

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Manitoba drivers among hundreds ignoring school bus stop signs

February 24, 2015, CBC News (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

A local company is calling its school bus safety results astounding.

For four months, Winnipeg-based Teknisult attached cameras to school buses in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

It found 423 violations of drivers ignoring the flashing red stop signs as buses stop to allow students to get on or off.

Company president Maurice Gregoire said when his company reviewed the footage, it found three times more violations than it had anticipated

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Ontario politicians send road safety bill to committee

February 24, 2015, Canadian Underwriter.ca (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

An Ontario government bill proposing to raise distracted driving fines to a range of \$300 to \$1,000 - and to change the rules for rebranding damaged vehicles as either salvageable or irreparable - has been referred to committee.

Bill 31, the Transportation Statute Law Amendment Act (Making Ontario's Roads Safer), was referred Tuesday to the Ontario legislature's Standing Committee on General Government.

"Bill 31 includes important new measures to deal with drugged driving as well as stiffer penalties for distracted driving, which has become the number one killer on Ontario's roads, as we hear from the OPP," said Peggy Sattler, the New Democratic Party MPP for London West...

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RCMP officers target distracted drivers

February 24, 2015, Sundre Roundup (SUNDRE, ALBERTA)

Sundre RCMP officers are joining other traffic units across Alberta to increase distracted driving enforcement over the next few weeks, as part of distracted driving month. The goal is to reduce the number of fatalities and serious injury crashes caused by distracted driving.

"There is a need to change public attitude and values toward distracted driving," said Sundre RCMP Sgt. Jim Lank.

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New Project: Community-Based Toolkit for Road Safety Campaigns

February 24, 2015, TIRF (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) is pleased to announce it has received funding from the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) to develop a Community-Based Toolkit for Road Safety Campaigns...

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Undercover police operations target drivers with cellphones in hand

February 23, 2015, CBC News (ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND)

Police forces in Newfoundland and Labrador are turning to undercover operations to nab drivers who can't seem to put their cell phones down when they're on the road.

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary was stopping drivers as part Operation Ringtone in Mount Pearl on Friday, using a white pickup truck that could easily be mistaken for a city vehicle.

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First annual Road Safety at Work Week March 2-6

February 18, 2015, Canada Newswire (RICHMOND, B.C.)

Motor-vehicles incidents are a leading cause of worker fatalities in British Columbia. To bring attention to this critically important workplace safety issue, Road Safety at Work is launching the first annual Road Safety at Work Week awareness campaign, March 2 - 6, 2015.

Distracted driving ... is the focus this year's Road Safety at Work Week.

Employers are responsible for the safety of their employees...

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OTA names 2015-2016 Road Knight Team

February 18, 2015, TruckNews.com (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The Ontario Trucking Association has knighted seven new truck drivers into the 2015-2016 Road Knight Team.

Those selected in the Road Knights, travel the province over their term and share their experiences and knowledge of the trucking industry with students and community groups.

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Distracted driving app aims to help heavy cellphone users

February 18, 2015, CBC News (CALGARY, ALBERTA)

An Alberta company hopes a new smartphone app will help so-called nomophobia sufferers who can't put their devices down while behind the wheel...OneTap is a free app that uses GPS to detect when a person is in a car and manages calls, texts and alerts that could be a distraction while driving.

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ICBC invests \$130 million to make B.C. roads safer

February 18, 2015, ICBC (NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C.)

This year marks the 25th anniversary of ICBC's road improvement program. Since 1990, ICBC has invested approximately \$130 million in more than 5,000 road improvement projects and safety studies across B.C.

Over the years, the road improvement program has evolved significantly. Successful partnerships, community investments and the use of innovative technology and tools have led to award winning projects and contributions that have helped advance the knowledge of the road safety engineering industry across Canada.

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Why Apple, Google won't have success in the auto industry

February 17, 2015, The Globe and Mail (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

...The tech giant is playing around the fringes of the auto industry, too - with the driverless car that will never in my lifetime become a commonplace reality for a list of reasons so long, it would fill a book as fat as the latest Oxford dictionary. More on that later, but for now, let's focus on Apple, Google and Silicon Valley...

...To put it simply, if your cell phone just stops working, if it gives up the ghost in mid-call, no one dies. If your car or any key part of it fails, someone can die...

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Speeding violations decreasing in photo speed enforced zones

February 17, 2015, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

The number of people speeding through photo speed enforcement locations in the province has decreased month over month.

“Photo speed enforcement has been proven to calm traffic and while it’s still early days, we’re seeing a positive effect in Saskatchewan’s photo speed enforced locations after only two months of the pilot,” said Minister Responsible for SGI Don McMorris. “Final January results are in; it’s encouraging to see more drivers respecting speed limits. We are hopeful these results continue as awareness increases.”

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Vancouver police wary of community-based traffic app

February 17, 2015, Global News (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

Construction and traffic are the kinds of things drivers try to avoid on their daily commute. And in a continued effort to stay ahead of potential traffic bottlenecks, many people are turning to social media and various apps. One of those apps is Waze, which boasts millions of users worldwide, including Vancouver.

...But the app also lets users avoid the police. Users can report where they see a speed trap or an impaired driving check stop. This feature has the VPD concerned.

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Efforts to stop impaired driving hampered by loopholes

February 16, 2015, CBC News (BARRIE, ONTARIO)

“Being the kid whose dad killed himself drinking and driving wasn’t fun,” wrote Kait Cooper, a 24-year-old from Barrie, Ont., in a recent Facebook post.

It was the anniversary of her father’s death. On the same evening 11 years ago, Douglas Cooper was driving home after a night of drinking in Ottawa and lost control of his car. He was ejected from the vehicle, and died instantly when his body slammed into a tree.

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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...](#)

**Transportation Association of Canada
Spring Technical Meeting**
Ottawa Marriott Hotel
Ottawa, Ontario
April 15-21, 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...](#)
[Register for the conference...](#)

**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...](#)

**Transportation Association of Canada
2015 Conference and Exhibition**
Theme: Getting You There Safely
PEI Convention Centre
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
September 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

