



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the period March 16th to 31st, 2015

ICBC launches speaker tour across B.C. to keep youth safe

March 31, 2015, ICBC (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

On average, six youth are killed and 1,660 injured in crashes during graduation season from April to June in B.C. every year.

That's why ICBC road safety speakers are travelling across the province to share their personal, heartbreaking stories with high school students to help them realize the life-changing consequences of taking risks behind the wheel.

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Changes for new drivers, 'faint hope' clause, take effect April 1

March 31, 2015, Government of Nova Scotia (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

Amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act, which are expected to reduce crashes and injury for new drivers and make roads safer from impaired drivers, take effect April 1.

There are two changes affecting new drivers:

1. Those who exit the newly licensed phase after April 1 will be required to maintain zero blood alcohol content for two years.
2. To be a supervisory driver, a person must wait for two years after exiting the newly licensed phase of the graduated licence program. Currently, a person can be a supervisory driver immediately after exiting the newly licensed phase.

A further amendment called the "faint hope" clause addresses impaired drivers who have had their licence permanently revoked....

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New device blocks cell signals inside vehicles to stop distracted driving, says developer

March 30, 2015, Edmonton Journal (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

An Edmonton businessman who is determined to keep his own children from driving distracted has created a device that he says delays texts, phone calls, social media messages and other alerts until a vehicle is in park.

Angus Poulain, a father of six, said he got the idea for his KRS, or Keeping Roads Safe, device about four years ago because his kids spent so much time texting and communicating through social media. He has 15-year-old twins who hope to get their drivers' licences soon.

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Number of fines for distracted driving going up every year: ICBC

March 29, 2015, News 1130 (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

The number of people fined for distracted driving in BC has gone up each year since the law came into effect back in 2010, that's according to statistics from ICBC.

And as a province-wide campaign to crack down wraps up this week, we're also finding out just how much money the government has made thanks to your bad habits.

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Bike helmets - mandatory in all communities April 1

March 27, 2015, Government of Newfoundland (ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND)

In keeping with the Provincial Government's commitment to promoting healthier and safer communities, bike helmets will be required to be worn by bicyclists on streets and roads throughout the province effective April 1.

To discuss this new requirement and demonstrate how to select a helmet that fits properly the Honourable Dan Crummell, Minister of Service NL, joined safety advocates, police and youth at the Boys and Girls Clubs of St. John's today.

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Cycling infrastructure funding gets a boost

March 27, 2015, Government of B.C. (VICTORIA, B.C.)

As part of B.C. on the Move, the Government of B.C.'s new 10-year transportation plan, the ministry is committing \$6 million in BikeBC funding this year to expand and build cycling lanes, trails and paths for B.C. families.

During consultations for B.C. on the Move, the ministry heard that enhanced cycling infrastructure and improved transportation choices are important to British Columbians. As a result, the Government of B.C. will invest \$18 million over the next three years through the BikeBC cost-sharing program to help local governments build projects that attract and support commuter, recreational and tourism cyclists and pedestrians.

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Social media engagement confirms that distracted driving is seen as serious safety threat on roads

March 25, 2015, Canada Newswire (ORILLIA, ONTARIO)

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) wrapped up its Distracted Driving campaign with strong support from the public, the media and other valued road safety partners who, throughout the campaign, remained heavily engaged in the OPP's continuous flow of messaging about distracted driving.

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CAA-Quebec's road problem watch: tackling potholes, one report at a time!

March 24, 2015, Canada Newswire (QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC)

On the heels of the bitter deep freeze of January and February, during which CAA-Quebec handled a record of over 220,000 Roadside Assistance calls, it's now the turn of potholes to severely test the motorists' patience. And with more than 25,000 reports logged and forwarded to authorities since its inception, CAA-Quebec reminds drivers that its Road Problem Watch is part of the solution for improving road conditions... and motorists' moods!

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Manitobans to weigh in on province's worst roads

March 24, 2015, CTV News (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

It's time again for Manitoba drivers to voice their complaints about potholes.

The annual CAA Manitoba's worst roads campaign kicked off Tuesday.

Drivers are asked to weigh in and vote on problems like pedestrian safety, traffic lights and congestion.

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Demerits and increased fines coming for distracted driving

March 23, 2015, Calgary Herald (CALGARY, ALBERTA)

Drivers in Alberta caught texting behind the wheel, or grooming, programming a GPS or talking on a hand-held cellphone, will soon be hit with demerit points and bigger fines after a private member's bill unanimously passed third reading at the Alberta legislature on Monday.

Bill 204, the Traffic Safety (Distracted Driving Demerit) Amendment Act, was introduced in December. Once the bill is proclaimed, distracted driving fines will jump to \$250, from \$172, and distracted driving tickets will come with a three-demerit point penalty.

The bill received widespread support from all parties, and police chiefs in Calgary and Edmonton endorsed the bill.

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New rule of the road: Keeping left is not always right

March 23, 2015, Government of B.C. (VICTORIA, B.C.)

Drivers should think twice about hogging the left lane on high-speed highways when new rules come into effect. Legislation introduced today will make it easier for police to ticket drivers who don't move over.

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CAA SCO launches worst roads campaign

March 23, 2015, Global News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

It's back. The 2015 version of Ontario's month-long worst roads campaign kicks off for yet another round of voting.

CAA South Central Ontario is urging Ontarians to go online and vote for the roads most in need of repair and redesign.

CAA will unveil the top ten worst roads in May. Last year, Dufferin Street in Toronto was voted the worst for a third straight year.

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Police operation against texting and driving

March 22, 2015, Life in Quebec.com (QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC)

A national road safety operation will take place from March 23rd to 29th. The operation will target driving distractions, especially cell phone use.

Organized in collaboration with the Sûreté du Québec, the Association of Chiefs of Police of Quebec, the Police Department of the City of Montréal and the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ), it will combine advocacy and intervention. To support the police actions, the SAAQ will broadcast a radio message against of texting and driving.

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Nearly 30,000 Manitobans register for winter tire financing

March 21, 2015, MyToba.ca (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

With an eye towards road safety, nearly 30,000 Manitobans have signed up for the province's new winter tire low-interest financing program, Justice Minister James Allum and Manitoba Public Insurance announced Friday.

"The overwhelming positive response confirms that Manitoba drivers make their road safety a priority," said Minister Allum, minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance. "This low-interest winter tire financing program allowed Manitobans to equip their vehicles with snow tires, which offer a number of safety advantages."

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Photo radar traps add \$68 million to Quebec's coffers

March 20, 2015, Montreal Gazette (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

Revenues from photo radars have more than doubled since they were first set up in 2009, from \$7.3 million to \$15.4 million last year, according to a Transport Quebec report tabled in the National Assembly on Tuesday.

The report, which spans the period between the radars' installation and the end of the 2013-14 financial year (March 31, 2014) says the speed traps caught enough speeders to net \$50 million in fines. The cameras scooped up another \$18 million between then and Dec. 31, Transport Ministry spokesperson Sarah Bensadoun said in an interview Friday.

Quebec is operating with 15 radars, she said, but the government plans to put another 37 on the roads this year.

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Pedestrian strategy: city plans to make Calgary more walkable

March 20, 2015, CBC News (CALGARY, ALBERTA)

The city's plan to make Calgary a more walkable place is moving forward. A series of public meetings wrapped up on Thursday night for the pedestrian strategy, an action plan city officials will present to council later this year.

"We want to encourage more Calgarians to walk more often, while making it easier and safer to do," says the city on its website.

[Click to see map which details 16 years of Calgary pedestrian-vehicle collisions](#)

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Electronic tracking in trucks welcomed

March 19, 2015, Maple Ridge News (MAPLE RIDGE, B.C.)

The BC Trucking Association (BCTA) is applauding Thursday's announcement by federal Transport Minister Lisa Raitt, which is mandating the use of electronic logging devices (ELDs) in commercial vehicles and electronic stability control (ESC) in new trucks.

ELDs in particular will ensure driving time is accurately recorded, removing the temptation for some individuals or companies to work outside the rules and increase their crash risk, says the Langley-based BCTA.

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Smart watches pose road safety worries

March 19, 2015, CJAD News (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

Looking forward to buying a flashy new Apple Watch? Well, there's one thing you should know before you strap onto your wrist: it can be a huge distraction and, behind the wheel, potentially dangerous.

So much so that Quebec Transport Minister Robert Poeti says the government has to consider how to best adapt to life on the road with smart watch users.

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B.C. government unveils \$2.5 billion road-improvement plan

March 18, 2015, The Province (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

The B.C. government has promised to expand to six lanes the section of Highway 1 between Langley and Abbotsford and improve cycling and pedestrian routes on the Stanley Park causeway as a part of a 10-year, \$2.5-billion transportation plan.

The plan, dubbed B.C. On the Move, aims to rehabilitate bridges, highways and side roads in rural B.C., improve efficiency of trucks, ferries and airports, and provide "safe movement of people and goods in B.C.," Transportation Minister Todd Stone said Tuesday.

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Record highways budget funds twinning, passing lanes, overpasses and bypasses

March 18, 2015, Government of Saskatchewan (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

The record 2015-16 Highways Budget funds several major projects that significantly improve safety on some of Saskatchewan's busiest highways.

This year's highways and infrastructure budget is \$842 million. The Budget includes \$560 million for transportation capital that will see the province move forward on several bypass, twinning, passing lane and overpass projects.

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Manitoba Government boosts funding for municipal roads, bridges and infrastructure

March 17, 2015, Government of Manitoba (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

The Manitoba government is increasing the matching funding available to municipalities outside of Winnipeg to \$16 million in 2015 to improve roads, bridges and infrastructure, Municipal Government Minister Drew Caldwell and Infrastructure and Transportation Minister Ron Kostyshyn announced today...

...“These investments are going to mean bigger, faster upgrades to municipal infrastructure,” said Minister Kostyshyn. “This will help communities maintain strong links and safer, more dependable travel routes for families, commercial traffic and tourists.”

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Public review of the Whitehorse corridor functional plan starts today

March 16, 2015, Yukon Government (WHITEHORSE, YUKON)

...In 2013, CH2M HILL Canada Limited was contracted to develop - in accordance with national guidelines and standards - a functional plan to address safety, traffic efficiency and capacity. The draft plan is now complete. The Yukon government is consulting with the public and affected First Nations from mid-March to mid-May.

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Should cellphone-using cyclists be ticketed?

March 16, 2015, Winnipeg Sun (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Winnipeg police, a watchdog for Manitoba motorists, and the city's cycling community all agree applying distracting driving laws to cyclists would be a step in the right direction for safety on the roadways.

While no such law to ticket cyclists for using hand-held devices while biking in Manitoba is imminent, the idea has gained traction in the city of Ottawa, where a police official there has lobbied the Ontario government to change the wording of its legislation that currently only applies to those operating "motor vehicles."

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MADD continuing awareness push

March 16, 2015, Prince Albert Herald (PRINCE ALBERT, ALBERTA)

Mothers Against Drunk Driving chapters across the country distributed millions of red ribbons during Project Red Ribbon, an annual campaign that wrapped up Jan. 5.

For the nascent local MADD chapter though, the wrap up date passed with it still in possession of hundreds of ribbons. But with the little ribbons able to convey a big message, the local group was not about to let them sit in storage.

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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...](#)

Parachute's Safe Kids Week
**Theme: promotion and awareness of
cycling and road safety in communities
across the country**
Across Canada
May 4-11, 2015
[Learn more...](#)

**Auto21's final conference - A Legacy of
Collaborative Innovation**
The Westin Ottawa Hotel
May 26-27, 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

