



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the period April 1st to 15th, 2015

Alcohol sales in grocery stores should only be considered if under LCBO control, says MADD Canada

April 10, 2015, MADD Canada (OAKVILLE, ONTARIO)

As the Province of Ontario considers allowing the sale of some alcohol products in select grocery stores, MADD Canada is warning Premier Kathleen Wynne that the safest and most socially-responsible way to do so is under the auspices of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO).

"Selling alcohol in grocery stores without the oversight of the LCBO amounts to privatization of alcohol sales, and that carries a whole host of serious public health and safety risks," said MADD Canada Chief Executive Officer Andrew Murie.

International and Canadian research has consistently shown that privatized systems typically result in increased access to alcohol (e.g. more locations, longer hours of sale, etc.) which leads to increased alcohol consumption and increased alcohol-related problems in society.

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Dedicated left-turn lane coming to Highway 1 at Gardi Road

April 9, 2015, Government of B.C. (KAMLOOPS, B.C.)

Design work is starting on a dedicated left-turn lane on Highway 1 at Gardi Road, approximately 20 kilometres west of Kamloops, to improve safety for the travelling public including local residents, tourists and commercial users, announced Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Todd Stone earlier today.

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B.C. moves to eliminate court trials for traffic violations

April 8, 2015, Vancouver Sun (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

The B.C. government is shifting traffic violations out of court in a move lawyers fear strips motorists of constitutional rights.

The Liberals are implementing amendments passed with no fanfare in 2012 to establish a new process for handling offences under the Motor Vehicle Act, similar to the paradigm shift made dealing with drunk drivers in 2010 when most impaired charges and trials were eliminated with a heavy-handed Immediate Roadside Prohibition (IRP) regime.

...“E-ticketing, coupled with a faster dispute resolution process, will mean that driver infractions will be recorded against driving records more quickly, thereby enabling interventions for high-risk drivers to be applied in a more timely manner,” the ministry stated.

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Integrated approach moves moose management planning forward

April 6, 2015, Government of Newfoundland (ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND)

The Honourable Dan Crummell, Minister of Environment and Conservation, and the Honourable David Brazil, Minister of Transportation and Works, today announced a new five-year moose management plan. The plan will see greater collaboration between government departments and will draw upon scientific research and moose-vehicle collision statistics to create a long-term, coordinated approach to moose management in the province.

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Ontario bill providing for license suspensions for drug-impaired drivers ready for third reading

April 6, 2015, Canadian Underwriter (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The Ontario legislature has adopted a committee report on a bill that, if passed into law, would increase the maximum fine for distracted driving to \$1,000, introduce licence suspensions for drug impairment and change the branding program for vehicles written off due to a collision for flood...

.. "Under impaired driving, Ontario is one of only three jurisdictions in Canada that currently has no sanctions for drug-impaired driving," said Bob Bailey, Progressive Conservative MPP for Sarnia-Lambton, last December during debates on Bill 31.

If passed into law, the bill would "expand existing alcohol-impaired sanctions to drivers who are impaired by drugs," Transportation Minister Steve Del Duca said at the time.

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Drugged driver crackdown hinges on a testing device

April 2, 2015, Mission Record (MISSION, B.C.)

Drug-impaired drivers who roam the roads mostly undetected are a top traffic safety priority for B.C. police chiefs.

Their association wants the federal government to approve a roadside testing device that would make it easier for officers to arrest stoned and otherwise drugged drivers.

"Whether it's marijuana or prescription drugs, there are people that are driving high and for a large part it goes undetected because we don't have a really good tester and we don't have many drug recognition experts," said Transit Police chief Neil Dubord, who chairs the traffic committee of the B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police.

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Week long Quebec crackdown on texting, using phone while driving results in 3,000 fines

April 2, 2015, Montreal Gazette (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

A province-wide effort to crack down on drivers who text or use their hands while talking on a cellphone resulted in more than 3,000 tickets being issued in just one week. The fines can fluctuate between \$80 to \$100 each.

The Sûreté du Québec announced the results of the project carried out, from March 23 and 29, by police forces all over the province. The goal was to draw attention to how dangerous it is to drive while distracted by things like texting on a smartphone when a driver's attention should be focused on the road...

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Ontario investing \$25 million in cycling infrastructure Province supports safe, active transportation

April 1, 2015, Government of Ontario (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

As part of Ontario's 20-year #CycleON strategy, the province is moving forward with a \$25-million investment over three years to create a more cycling-friendly future for the province. This includes \$15 million for cycling routes that provide key connections and linkages on provincial highways, such as paved highway shoulders and barriers on bridges that separate cyclists from vehicles. Early proposals include...

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CAA SCO applauds safe cycling communities

April 1, 2015, Canada Newswire (THORNHILL, ONTARIO)

For over a decade, CAA South Central Ontario (CAA SCO) has been working closely with both municipalities and cycling advocates across the province on ways to help make our roads safer for drivers and cyclists.

...CAA SCO is proud to be a sponsor of Share the Road's Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) Awards. Last night, CAA SCO was on hand for the award ceremony at the Eaton Chelsea Hotel in downtown Toronto for the announcement of the 2015 recipients...

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MADD Canada welcomes arrival of .00% BAC requirement for new and young drivers

April 1, 2015, Market Wired (OAKVILLE, ONTARIO)

A new regulation, taking effect today, to extend the zero alcohol requirement for new and young drivers will help reduce impaired driving and improve road safety, says MADD Canada.

Previously, drivers were required to maintain a .00% blood alcohol content (BAC) while enrolled in the province's graduated licencing program. As of today, that .00% BAC requirement extends for two years beyond completion of the graduated licencing program.

"Extending the 00% BAC requirement is an important and effective way to reduce alcohol-related crashes, deaths and injuries among new and young drivers," said MADD Canada Chief Executive Officer Andrew Murie.

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Funding slashed for all safety programs at Transport Canada

April 1, 2015, Global News (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The Conservative government is slashing funding for all safety and security programs at Transport Canada, with a significant chunk coming out of safety oversight initiatives, planning documents show.

The amount of funding set to be clawed away varies between programs – the budget for transportation of dangerous goods is going down 32 per cent while the budget for aviation safety is dropping 9.2 per cent...

...Other programs dealing with cuts include marine safety (23 per cent), rail safety (4.3 per cent) and motor vehicle safety (8.8 per cent). All percentage differences were calculated using the department's forecasted spending for 2014-15 and planned spending for 2015-16.

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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...](#)

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...](#)

**Cone Zone Kart Track
Interactive Youth Safety Programs**
Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair, Surrey,
British Columbia
May 15-18, 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...](#)

**"The art of regression modeling in road
safety" – Graduate Course**
Cost: \$900
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario
September 8-11, 2015
For more info, please contact:
Ezra.hauer@utoronto.ca

**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...](#)

**Toronto Centre for Active Transportation
(TCAT) 8th Annual Complete Streets
Forum - Save the Date!**
October 1, 2015
[Check here soon for more info...](#)