



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the period June 1st to July 31st, 2015

Pedestrian deaths heighten the importance of road safety

July 31, 2015, MPI (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

In the wake of two pedestrians killed recently in Winnipeg, Manitoba Public Insurance and the Winnipeg Police Service are calling on all motorists and pedestrians to be road-safety minded.

“On average, 14 pedestrians are fatally injured in motor vehicle collisions annually in Manitoba and the tragic events of this week highlight the importance of pedestrian safety,” said Ward Keith, vice-president, Business Development & Communications and chief product officer, Manitoba Public Insurance.

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Distracted driving consultation draws heartfelt ideas

July 24, 2015, Government of BC (VICTORIA, BC)

Heartfelt submissions and strong opinions permeate the more than 10,000 submissions and comments government received during its month-long consultation on distracted driving.

Among the powerful, often personal stories shared in 962 email submissions - supplemented by 1,932 online comments - were:

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Cycling projects promote active, healthy Island communities

July 23, 2015, Government of BC (VICTORIA, BC)

As part of B.C. on the Move, the Government of B.C.'s new 10-year transportation plan, five communities on Vancouver Island will receive almost \$1.4 million in BikeBC funding this year to expand and build cycling lanes, trails and paths for cyclists and pedestrians.

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ICBC calls on drivers to reduce motorcycle crashes this summer

July 21, 2015, ICBC (VANCOUVER, BC)

ICBC is urging drivers to watch out for motorcyclists on our roads as ridership and crashes peak in summer, with six riders injured every day in July and August in B.C.

Vehicle drivers are at fault in nearly 80 per cent of crashes with motorcycles where the rider is seriously injured.* Distracted driving and failing to yield the right-of-way are the top contributing factors for drivers in crashes with motorcyclists.

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New legislation toughens penalties for distracted driving

July 16, 2015, Government of PEI (CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI)

Recent amendments to the Highway Safety Act create tougher penalties for those caught driving while using handheld communication devices, says Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy Minister Paula Biggar.

“It is sad to see collisions on our Island roads that could be prevented if drivers would understand the dangers of distracted and impaired driving,” said Minister Biggar. “Distracted driving is just as serious as impaired driving. Using a phone while driving is dangerous and deadly.”

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Canadian jurisdictions conduct Roadcheck blitz 2015

July 9, 2015, CCMTA (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The annual North American roadside safety inspection blitz Roadcheck was conducted June 2-4 by enforcement agencies in Canada, the United States and Mexico. The event is coordinated by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) in partnership with CCMTA member jurisdictions.

In Canada, 81.4% of commercial vehicles inspected as part of this year's event successfully met the CVSA's most comprehensive and stringent on-road inspection criteria. Inspections were conducted at 174 sites across provinces and territories, with vehicles not bearing a valid CVSA decal subjected to inspection.

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Applications for funding to promote cycling now open

July 3, 2015, Government of Ontario (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Applications are now open for the Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program and the Cycling Training Fund - two programs designed to help encourage cycling across the province.

Ontario has a 20-year #CycleON strategy to promote cycling as a viable mode of transportation, improve cyclist safety and help make Ontario a premier cycling destination.

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Investment of \$19.2 million for Route 11 through Strategic Infrastructure Initiative

July 2, 2015, Government of New Brunswick (SHEDIAC, NB)

...“I am pleased that we are starting construction on Route 11,” said Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Roger Melanson. “This project is of great importance for safety, trucking, trade and travel. It will also boost our economy, both in the short-term through immediate job creation and in the long-term through the building of strategic infrastructure to support economic development.”

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British Columbians support tougher distracted driving penalties

June 30, 2015, Government of BC (VICTORIA, BC)

At the halfway point of B.C.'s distracted driving consultation, it's clear that British Columbians are very concerned about this dangerous behaviour and would support tougher penalties to curb it.

Since June 16, 2015, the website has been visited over 11,800 times. Nearly 90% of those leaving feedback say they're "very concerned" about distracted driving, and 96% support escalating sanctions for repeat offenders.

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Taking action to keep Ontario's highways safe in winter

June 26, 2015, Government of Ontario (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Today Ontario released the Winter Highway Maintenance Action Plan in response to the Auditor General of Ontario's report on winter highway maintenance.

The plan lays out how the province will continue to improve winter road conditions, keep drivers better informed and increase oversight of winter maintenance contractor performance.

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New report: Road safety campaigns - what the research tells us

June 25, 2015, TIRF (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) is pleased to announce the release of Road Safety Campaigns - What the Research Tells Us. This report represents the first phase of a two-phase project that has been conducted by the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) with funding from the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA).

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Provinces must step up efforts to reduce impaired driving, concludes new MADD Canada report

June 22, 2015, MADD Canada (OAKVILLE, ONTARIO)

Impairment-related crashes remain the leading criminal cause of death in Canada, claiming almost twice as many lives as all forms of homicide combined. Despite that, provinces are failing to implement comprehensive legislative measures that have been proven effective in reducing impaired driving crashes, deaths and injuries, according to MADD Canada's latest review of provincial legislation.

The 2015 Provincial Impaired Driving Report, released today, assesses major elements of each province's impaired driving laws and identifies areas where reforms can be made to significantly reduce impaired driving. This is the 6th Provincial Impaired Driving Report compiled by MADD Canada. Previous versions were published in 2012, 2009, 2006, 2003 and 2000.

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MADD CEO blasts federal proposals on impaired driving law

June 17, 2015, CBC News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The federal government's proposed changes to impaired driving laws have failed Canadians, says Andrew Murie, the chief executive officer of the Canadian arm of MADD, or Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Justice Minister Peter MacKay introduced a bill Tuesday proposing tougher penalties for drunk driving, including a mandatory minimum sentence of six years in prison for anyone convicted of impaired driving causing death.

Murie says penalties that only happen after somebody is dead don't stop drunk drivers from getting behind the wheel.

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Feds propose stiffer penalties for drunk drivers who kill

June 16, 2015, Edmonton Sun (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

Justice Minister Peter MacKay proposed a new law Tuesday to toughen penalties for drunk drivers who injure or kill.

The bill introduces a mandatory 6-year minimum sentence for impaired drivers who cause death, a measure long called for by victims' families and anti-drunk driving groups.

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"24 Hours," MADD Canada's latest program for students, debuts this week

June 15, 2015, Marketwired (OAKVILLE, ONTARIO)

What would you do if you only had 24 hours to live? That question launches 24 Hours, MADD Canada's newest School Assembly Program for youth...

...24 Hours shows the fictional account of Michelle, Lainey and Nate as they make plans to attend to a bush party dubbed "The End of the World." Getting into the spirit of the theme, the friends discuss what they would do if the end of world really was coming and they only had 24 hours to live...

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Minister Raitt discusses the future of transportation in Canada

June 12, 2015, Transport Canada (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Transport, delivered remarks today at the Economic Club of Canada in Toronto where she discussed how the Government of Canada's is enhancing the safety and efficiency of Canada's transportation system and gearing it towards the future.

Minister Raitt outlined how Transport Canada is supporting important projects and research programs to ensure that transportation benefits from evolving innovations such as connected vehicles, unmanned aerial vehicles, shore power technologies, and high-tech scheduling at ports. Minister Raitt also stressed the importance of regulating transportation in Canada to enhance national safety.

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Do the right thing - don't hog the left lane

June 12, 2015, Government of BC (VICTORIA, BC)

As of June 12, 2015, drivers will need a good reason to travel in the left lane on high-speed, multi-lane highways throughout the province of British Columbia.

Beginning today, new regulations will come into effect that will clarify rules regarding travelling in the left lane. Drivers on multi-lane highways where the speed is at least 80 kilometres per hour must stay to the right unless they are:

- Overtaking and passing another vehicle.
- Moving left to allow traffic to merge.
- Preparing for a left hand turn.
- Moving left to pass an official vehicle displaying a flashing light.

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Ontario increasing on-road access for off-road and all-terrain vehicles - New rules will also strengthen safety requirements for riders

June 8, 2015, Government of Ontario (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Ontario is enhancing on-road access for more types of off-road vehicles (ORVs) and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) while increasing safety requirements for riders.

Beginning July 1, 2015, the province is implementing the following changes to ensure that ORV and ATV riders safely reach their destination:

More types of ORVs and ATVs, including two-up ATVs, side-by-side ATVs and utility-terrain vehicles (UTVs), will be allowed to use the shoulder of public roads.

All riders -- including drivers and passengers of all ages -- will have to wear a helmet and use a seatbelt or foot rests, where applicable

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New legislation introduced for stronger vehicle recall powers

June 3, 2015, Transport Canada (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Today, the Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Transport, introduced legislation in the House of Commons to better protect Canadian motorists through new powers to order vehicle recalls. This new legislation was previously announced in Budget 2015.

These proposed new powers – introduced through the Safer Vehicles for Canadians Act – allow the Minister to order a company to issue a recall and require manufacturers to fix defective or non-compliant vehicles.

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Cost of preventable injuries continuing to grow says new report

June 3, 2015, Parachute (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

New data from The Cost of Injury in Canada Report shows the financial costs of preventable injuries are rising, while the human costs are catastrophic. Using the latest national and provincial data available (2010), the Report shows \$27 billion is lost to the economy annually, surpassing heart and stroke disease costs. Injury is the number one killer of Canadians aged 1-44, with 43 people dying every day. The loss of life is equivalent to a jumbo jet crashing every ten days, with no survivors.

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Manitoba expected to increase penalties for distracted driving

June 3, 2015, CTV (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Manitoba is planning to increase at least one of the penalties for talking and texting while driving.

CTV has learned the Selinger government will introduce changes to the law as early as Thursday, to hike the number of demerits for those guilty of distracted driving.

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CAA-Quebec announces its ranking of Quebec's worst roads

June 2, 2015, Canada Newswire (QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC)

After four weeks of reporting, with nearly 5,000 votes recorded at worstroads-caaquebec.com, Chemin de la Traverse connecting Lac-Beauport to Sainte-Brigitte-de-Laval has been labelled the worst road in Quebec. In this first annual ranking of worst roads, participants made their voices heard and compiled this list covering streets and highways province-wide.

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Ontario passes legislation to improve road safety - New rules will help reduce collisions, injuries and fatalities

June 2, 2015, Government of Ontario (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Today, Ontario passed the Making Ontario's Roads Safer Act to help ensure that the province's roads are among the safest in North America.

In order to reduce collisions, injuries and fatalities on Ontario's roads, the new act will:

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PEI leading the way to reduce impaired driving, says MADD

June 1, 2015, Government of PEI (CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI)

The Government of Prince Edward Island remains committed to making our highways safer by combating impaired and distracted driving, says Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy Minister Paula Biggar.

“Impaired driving is unacceptable in Prince Edward Island and we will work with law enforcement and community groups to change the laws, increase public awareness of the penalties, and make Island roads safer,” said Minister Biggar. “These efforts include a continued partnership with MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Canada, the anti-drinking and driving movement in Canada.”

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2015

"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:

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arrive alive DRIVE SOBER and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police Traffic Committee bring you a Workshop on: [Impaired driving as defined in the criminal code \(plus an AGM, and a special focus on Social Media\)](#)

Delta Ottawa City Centre,

Ottawa, Ontario

September 27-29, 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

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Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) 8th Annual Complete Streets Forum – Registration Now Open!

Hart House, St. George Campus, University of Toronto

Toronto, Ontario

October 1, 2015

[Learn more...](#)