



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the period June 1st to 30th, 2016

#SlowDown Saskatchewan: police targeting aggressive drivers in work zones in July

June 30, 2016, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

Work zone safety is the province-wide traffic safety spotlight for the month of July.

Police will be looking for drivers speeding and exhibiting other aggressive driving behaviours in work zones, such as stunting, racing, ignoring construction signage or illegally passing other vehicles.

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ICBC and police team up for annual summer campaign

June 29, 2016, ICBC (NORTH VANCOUVER, BC)

Summer can be a deadly time on B.C. roads, with 46 per cent of impaired driving-related deaths occurring between June and September. That's why ICBC and police are stepping up awareness activities and CounterAttack roadchecks across the province starting this long weekend.

With increased traffic and vacation plans that could involve alcohol, ICBC is urging everyone to plan ahead to travel safely. Police will be looking for impaired drivers at CounterAttack roadchecks throughout B.C.

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Crash rates are down or unchanged in 19 of 33 new speed zones

June 28, 2016, BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (VICTORIA, BC)

New data released today by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure shows that crash rates have dropped, or are unchanged, on 19 of 33 sections of highway where speed limits were increased in 2014, the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Todd Stone announced.

The Coquihalla from Hope to Kamloops, for example, where the speed limit was increased from 110 kilometres per hour to 120 km/h, continues to see the lowest crash rate in the last 10 years.

“Ministry engineers have taken a close look at the speed and crash data for each section of highway where we increased speed limits,” Stone said. “They found that on 19 of 33 segments of highways, the crash rate either fell or remained unchanged.”

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Ontario First in Canada to Introduce Mandatory Entry-Level Training for Class A Truck Drivers

June 28, 2016, Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

To keep the province's roads among the safest in North America, Ontario is introducing mandatory entry-level training for new commercial Class A truck drivers.

Individuals seeking a Class A licence in Ontario on or after July 1, 2017 will need to successfully complete mandatory entry-level training before attempting the Class A road test. Individuals who already have a Class A licence before this date will not be required to take training.

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Transportation Network Company regulation and insurance driven by safety and fairness

June 28, 2016, Alberta Transportation (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

The ministries of Transportation and Treasury Board and Finance have worked with the ride-for-hire industry, the insurance sector, municipalities and other stakeholders to develop appropriate insurance coverage, licensing and police information checks that will allow TNCs to operate in Alberta.

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Provincial award a team effort

June 25, 2016, Owen Sound Sun Times (OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO)

Matt Evans says he couldn't have ever won a provincial Lifetime Achievement Award for his work with Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving, without the support of the Grey-Bruce community.

...Evans recently received the award from the Ministry of Transportation to recognize his work in helping to create and manage OSAID for over 25 years.

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On the Road

June 23, 2016, OHS Canada (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Distraction, fatigue and human errors have been cited as the causes of numerous collisions in the transportation sector. For trucking companies and businesses that operate fleets of vehicles, what role can semi-autonomous technology (SAT) play in enhancing the safety of those who spend hours behind the wheel?...

...Pierro Hirsch, director of road safety research at Montreal firm Virage Simulation, which makes simulators for trucks, cars and buses, is hopeful that SAT can prevent many crashes that would otherwise occur due to human error, distraction or fatigue. Hirsch, who is also a board member of the Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals, which has a national office in St. Catharines, Ontario, cites an IIHS report from January showing that automatic braking and forward collision warning systems reduce rear-end crashes by 23 per cent and greatly diminish injuries...

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Driverless cars create a safety 'dilemma': passengers vs. pedestrians

June 23, 2016, CNN (WASHINGTON, DC)

You're riding in a driverless car with a loved one. It's cruising down a one-way, single-lane road with a barricade to the left and a wall to the right.

Just a few feet ahead, three pedestrians are hurrying across a crosswalk even though it's flashing a red signal. The driverless vehicle's wheels are faster than the pedestrians' feet, and a collision is inevitable. What should happen next?

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World Motorcycle Day emphasizes road safety

June 21, 2016, Canada Newswire (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Today is World Motorcycle Day (WMD), an annual opportunity to celebrate "turning the throttle" while practising road safety. As the days and nights get longer, it's the perfect occasion to ride - as Lionel Richie would say - all night long.

..."Motorcycle sales are increasing in Canada, and all drivers must be aware of the role they play in keeping the roads safe," said Steve Kee, Director of Media and Digital Communications for Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC), and a motorcycle enthusiast.

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IBC kicks off 2016 "Leave the Phone Alone" campaign

June 21, 2016, Canada Newswire (CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI)

Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC), Hot 105.5 FM and the PEI government want you to "Leave the Phone Alone - Don't text and drive."

"We need to work toward zero tolerance of distracted driving," said Amanda Dean, Vice-President, Atlantic, IBC. "Driver distraction is a factor in four-million collisions every year across North America. We have to bring that number down."

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MTO officials reveal details of MELT

June 18, 2016, Truck News (KING CITY, ONTARIO)

Sharpen your pencils, prospective commercial truck drivers. Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) in Ontario is coming next month according to officials at the province's Ministry of Transportation.

Franca Ambrosio, manager, evaluation and training office with the MTO and Kim MacCarl, team leader for the standard revealed what MELT would look at the Private Motor Truck Council of Canada's annual conference earlier this week.

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What the pedestrian safety conversation overlooked

June 17, 2016, TVO (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The pedestrian safety campaigns launched by Toronto and then the Ontario government this week were tragically amplified by the freakish death of a woman who was working in a tent stall near the Rogers Centre when a Mercedes-Benz SUV jumped the curb and plowed into her.

Although police haven't released details, it is worth noting that this kind of vehicle, like a growing number of other new higher-end passenger vehicles, features a large digital screen in the middle of the dash board....

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RCMP and Government to Partner on Safe Driving Campaign

June 17, 2016, Government of Saskatchewan (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

During the week of June 20, the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is teaming up with the RCMP to educate the public on the importance of slowing to 60 km/hr when passing emergency workers.

"We are pleased to partner with the RCMP to raise awareness about the importance of obeying speed laws and driving attentively when passing first responders," Highways and Infrastructure Minister Nancy Heppner said. "First responders are working to keep us safe; we need to do our part to ensure their workplace is as safe as possible."

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5 cities Toronto could copy to improve road safety

June 16, 2016, CBC News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Sixteen pedestrians have been killed on Toronto streets in 2016.

That's 16 more people than John Tory would like. His aim is to bring those pedestrian fatalities to a halt, with zero by 2021.

But Toronto has some ground to make up when it comes to pedestrian safety measures. Cities across Europe, North America and the Caribbean are already working toward complete pedestrian safety with Vision Zero, a Swedish program to eliminate road deaths.

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Coroner urges safer road design to protect children, cyclists

June 15, 2016, CTV News (VANCOUVER, BC)

...The report released Wednesday reveals a portrait of the young people who died on B.C.'s roads. It says 15 to 18-year-olds were most likely to die in these incidents, and 23 of 29 in that age range tested positive for alcohol or marijuana.

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Traffic Control Manual outlines workplace safety measures

June 15, 2016, Government of PEI (CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI)

A newly revised traffic control manual will help protect the safety of workers, motorists and bystanders at highway construction sites across Prince Edward Island, says Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy Minister Paula Biggar.

“Our provincial government is making significant investments in provincial infrastructure so that people and goods can move safely and efficiently around our Island. The new PEI Temporary Workplace Traffic Control Manual provides guidelines for protecting workers in construction or maintenance zones and for providing safe movement of vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians,” said Minister Biggar.

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Toronto needs to plan around pedestrians, not drivers: Expert

June 14, 2016, MetroNews.ca (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The architect of one of the most effective road safety strategies in the world says it's time for Toronto to "revolutionize" its approach to safe streets.

"The thing that strikes me the most about coming to Toronto or other cities in North America is that the whole focus is on car drivers," said Matts-Ake Belin, a traffic safety strategist with the Swedish Transportation Administration and the president of the country's Vision Zero initiative. "If you want to promote cycling and walking - which are good for the environment and good for health outcomes - then one of the barriers to doing that is safety.

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Lower speed limits part of Toronto plan to reduce pedestrian deaths

June 13, 2016, TheStar.com (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Mayor John Tory is championing a new road safety plan that aims to cut serious collisions involving pedestrians and cyclists by 20 per cent over the next decade.

At a news conference on Spadina Ave. south of Dundas St. W. on Monday, Tory and public works chair Councillor Jaye Robinson unveiled a plan that would dedicate \$68.1 million to road safety initiatives over the next five years. That's roughly \$40 million more than is currently allocated.

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Driving while talking on a hands-free phone can be as distracting as talking on hand-held mobile: study

June 8, 2016, Canadian Underwriter (SUSSEX, ENGLAND)

Driving while talking on a hands-free phone can be as distracting as talking on a hand-held mobile, according to a study from researchers at the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom.

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‘Drugged Driving Suit’ simulates the physical impact of drug impairment

June 7, 2016, Global News (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

Demonstrations using drunk driving goggles are commonly used to demonstrate the effects of driving while drunk, but how about a “Drugged Driving Suit?”

Law enforcement, health officials and experts in road safety from across Canada are in Halifax this week for the 2016 Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals Conference (CARSP).

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Enforceable variable speed limit signs aimed at reducing weather-related crashes “go live” in British Columbia

June 3, 2016, Canadian Underwriter (VICTORIA, BC)

Variable speed signs are now active in three locations throughout the province of British Columbia as part of a project to help reduce the frequency and severity of weather-related crashes.

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Enforceable variable speed limit signs “go live”

June 2, 2016, BC Transportation and Infrastructure (VICTORIA, BC)

Variable speed signs are now active in three locations throughout the province as part of a pilot project to help reduce the frequency and severity of weather-related crashes, announced Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Todd Stone.

“Starting today, variable speed limit signs will be activated in three locations - the Coquihalla, Sea to Sky and the Trans-Canada Highway near Revelstoke,” said Stone. “It is important drivers understand that along these corridors, these signs aren’t ‘speed readers’, they are the law. These electronic signs will adjust the speed limit according to conditions and will require drivers to slow down and reduce their speed in bad weather.”

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B.C.'s distracted driving penalty jumps to \$543 June 1

June 1, 2016, Peace Arch News (SURREY, BC)

The penalty for using a cell phone while driving just went up today.

Effective June 1, distracted driving offences will result in a \$368 fine, and when the \$175 penalty points premium by ICBC is added on for the four-penalty-point infraction, that means a minimum \$543 fine for first-time offenders.

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2016

Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) Conference and Exhibition
Theme: Efficient Transportation – Managing the Demand
Toronto, Ontario
September 25-28, 2016
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CARSP Conference 2017 – Theme: Technology in Road Safety
Toronto, Ontario
June 18-21, 2017
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