



# Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period June 1-30, 2017

## **OPP Reveals Number One Cause of Road Fatalities This Year**

June 28, 2017, insauga.com (MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO)

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has said the death toll in one category is 76 percent higher than it was at this time last year.

Police have announced that, as of June 26, 2017, speeding drivers are the number one cause of road deaths so far this year.

“Aggressive driving-related deaths have dramatically increased in Ontario in the last year,” said Marie-France Lalonde, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

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## **Awareness campaign confirms thousands of Manitoba drivers exceed speed limits – road safety encouraged during July long weekend**

June 28, 2017, Government of Manitoba (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Findings from a recent speed awareness campaign reported 25 per cent of monitored vehicles (9,400 vehicles) were exceeding the posted speed limit. In total, nearly 38,000 vehicles were monitored during the Citizens on Patrol Program ‘Spotlight on Speed’ week held in 29 communities from May 1-6.

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## Saskatchewan seatbelt law turns 40 - thousands of lives saved

June 28, 2017, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

The year was 1977. The Toronto Blue Jays played their first game. Elvis Presley died. "Star Wars" introduced us to Luke, Leia and Darth Vader. And a new law came into effect that would eventually save thousands of lives on Saskatchewan roads.

Saskatchewan was the third province in Canada to mandate seatbelts, following Ontario and Quebec that introduced the law the year before.

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## Survey reveals Ontarians aren't aware of their dangerous driving behavior near construction zones

June 26, 2017, Newswire.ca (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

As Ontarians head into the second long weekend of summer, getting to destinations safely is top of mind for those travelling to cottages, on road trips and to other weekend getaways. But highways and other roadways are full of construction zones in the warmer months, and according to a recent Ontario Road Builders' Association (ORBA) survey conducted by Leger, nine out of ten Ontarians have witnessed dangerous driving behaviours from other drivers in construction zones, such as speeding, failing to merge and texting while driving.

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## Press release: Toronto picks road safety over speed, new poll finds

June 24, 2017, Cycle Toronto (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Eighty-one percent of Toronto residents support lower speed limits on city roads even if it means increased travel time, and 80 percent favour building a safe network of bicycle lanes, a new poll has found.

The survey of 802 Torontonians, conducted by the Angus Reid Forum (owned by Maru/Matchbox), also shows nearly seven in 10 want to keep the bicycle lane on Bloor Street

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## Vision Zero plan could have crosswalk signals turn on with body heat

June 22, 2017, Global News (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

Never mind distracted driving, city officials are now finding themselves trying to solve the problem of distracted walking.

The executive director of the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) told the Edmonton Police Commission Thursday, they're looking at thermal technology that will help save distracted walkers from themselves.

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## National Injury Prevention Day Message from our President & CEO

June 20, 2017, Parachute (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Parachute is dedicated to preventing injuries and saving lives through education, knowledge and empowerment. Our key areas of focus are motor vehicle collisions, sports and recreational injuries, and seniors' falls.

Help us drive down the number of motor vehicle collisions, which continue to affect the lives of countless Canadians.

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## Ian Mulgrew: Expanded B.C. roadside suspension policy expected to deal with drugged driving

June 20, 2017, Vancouver Sun (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

Victoria is expected to amend the Immediate Roadside Prohibition scheme to include drug impairment or to create a similar anti-drug-driving program as the country legalizes marijuana next year.

A broader IRP regime would prevent drug-impaired-driving charges from clogging the courts and continue the made-in-B.C. approach of treating some offences as "regulatory" rather than "criminal."

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## UNB Professor says self-driving cars will improve road safety

June 20, 2017, The Fox 105.3 (FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK)

A University of New Brunswick engineering professor says self-driving vehicles present an opportunity for increased transportation safety, especially for seniors.

Dr. Eric Hildebrand says about 90 per cent of all collisions are at least partly the fault of drivers, and autonomous vehicles could reduce that number.

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## Apple's latest iOS to target distracted driving

June 19, 2017, CBC News (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

You're stuck in standstill traffic and you haven't moved in 20 minutes. You feel your phone buzz in your pocket, so you pull it out. But Apple's next update might stop you from being able to reply.

The technology giant recently announced their iOS 11 will have a optional feature that withholds notifications while you're driving.

The "do not disturb while driving" function will also have an auto-reply option to let people know you're on the road. Certain apps will be blocked altogether while using the feature.

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## Public Consultation on Road Safety

June 19, 2017, SAAQ (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

The summary document compiling the comments, suggestions and ideas gathered during the public consultation on road safety is now available.

Individuals, groups and associations were all invited to take part in the public consultation from January 9 to March 3, 2017.

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## **Aggressive driving deaths in Ontario spike 80 per cent**

June 9, 2017, Toronto Metro (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Aggressive driving is at an all-time high in Ontario and local road safety advocates say it's time for policymakers and city planners to focus more on law enforcement and infrastructure improvement.

The Ontario Provincial Police's latest report on road safety indicates an 80 per cent spike in fatalities caused by dangerous driving in 2017. Twenty-seven people have been killed in road crashes so far this year, compared to 15 at the same time last year.

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## **Why did the 12-year-old cross the road (when it indicated 'don't walk')?**

June 6, 2017, The Globe and Mail (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Think you can start crossing the street once that timer has started? Talk to the hand.

"It is the flashing hand that makes it illegal for a pedestrian to cross the road," Constable Clint Stibbe, with Toronto Police traffic services, said in an e-mail. "Once the hand has started flashing, anyone already on the roadway may complete the crossing, [but] no one else is allowed to start crossing."

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## **'Everyday Superheroes' recruited during Parachute Safe Kids Week to promote safe, active transportation and combat the #1 killer of Canadian children**

June 5, 2017, Newswire.ca (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Young children are among Canada's most vulnerable population when it comes to preventable injuries. Parachute Safe Kids Week, a national awareness campaign which runs from June 5-11, is encouraging kids to act as 'everyday superheroes' to help champion road safety in their neighbourhoods. This year, Parachute Safe Kids Week is focused on active transportation safety: Walk, Bike, Wheel, which includes walking, cycling, skateboarding, scootering, and other wheeled activities.

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## Alberta's traffic safety campaign in June to focus on differences between commercial and smaller passenger vehicles

June 2, 2017, Canada Underwriter (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

The province of Alberta will be holding a traffic safety campaign in June to educating drivers about the differences between commercial vehicles and smaller passenger vehicles.

Occupants of a passenger vehicle are more likely to be killed or injured in a collision with a large commercial vehicle because of the differences in weight, stopping distance and rollover potential, the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Transportation said in a statement issued on Friday.

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## Canadian Events & Conferences in 2017

### **Canadian National Driver Rehabilitation Conference**

Charlottetown, PEI  
October 12-13, 2017

[Learn more...](#)

### **Not by Accident / arrive alive DRIVE SOBER Joint Conference 2017 –**

London, Ontario  
October 23-24, 2017

[Learn more...](#)