



# Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period October 1-31, 2017

## Major New Transit Hub in Toronto Takes Next Step Forward

October 31, 2017, Government of Ontario (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Ontario is making it easier for commuters and families to get around the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) by redeveloping Kipling Station into a major new transit hub that connects subway, regional rail, and inter-regional bus services within a single station.

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## Feds announce \$36.4M public education campaign on legalized pot

October 31, 2017, CTV News (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

As plans to legalize marijuana move forward, the federal government is spending \$36.4 million over the next five years on a marijuana education and awareness campaign.

The campaign will aim to educate Canadians—youth in particular— about the health and safety risks of marijuana use, and drug-impaired driving, the government says.

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## Many N.L. drivers don't know how to avoid a moose-vehicle collision: survey

October 31, 2017, The Gulf News (ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND)

On a clear night, an experienced highway driver can detect the reflection of headlights in the eyes of a moose or other animal in time to stop to avoid a collision.

But that is not something most drivers can rely upon. The animals' eyes can only be detected if the moose is facing or is perpendicular to the oncoming vehicle, and if the weather is clear enough.

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## Why a 'zombie law' won't stop the 'killing and maiming' happening on Toronto streets

October 30, 2017, Metro News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Aggressive or distracted drivers kill or seriously injure one person every two days in Toronto.

Since 2005, their reckless behaviour has contributed to more than 2,000 pedestrians getting hit while just trying to walk in the city. So it takes some real gall to look at these numbers, included in Toronto's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan, and say, hey, what we really need is a new law for pedestrians.

But the gall has arrived.

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## Drunk driving deaths up in Saskatchewan in 2016: SGI

October 29, 2017, CBC News (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

...Saskatchewan's rate of impaired drivers is the highest in Canada. Nearly half of all fatal traffic collisions in the province— at 46 per cent —involved alcohol...

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## **'If you do nothing, we will continue to die': Cyclists call for better road safety**

October 28, 2017, CBC News (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

In a call for better road safety, cyclists took to city streets to shed light on some of the dangers they face on a daily basis.

"If we had a city that was better designed, we'd have a better cohabitation," said Gabrielle Anctil, the spokesperson for Vélo fantôme.

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## **CAA recognizes top road safety journalist in 2017**

October 27, 2017, Newswire (AJAX, ONTARIO)

The Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) is pleased to announce the winner of the 2017 CAA Road Safety Journalism Award. Stephanie Wallcraft took home the award Wednesday night at the Automotive Journalists Association of Canada awards banquet, in Ajax, Ontario.

The CAA Road Safety Journalism Award, now in its sixth year, draws attention to the importance of public service journalism on road safety, and highlights the excellent work being done in the field. The award has also been held by other well-known automotive journalists such as Jil McIntosh and Nadine Filion.

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## **Impaired driving casualties prompt Sask. to press for ride-booking services**

October 26, 2017, CBC News (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

The Saskatchewan government is advocating for ride-booking services in the province because it wants to reduce the number of injuries and deaths from impaired driving, according to cabinet minister Joe Hargrave.

During Wednesday's throne speech, the province said it would press municipalities to allow the services within their jurisdictions. If and when companies would be able to operate would ultimately be up to the municipalities, but the province would take care of things such as regulations and insurance.

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## **Amendments to Motor Vehicle Act introduced**

October 26, 2017, Government of New Brunswick (FREDERICTON, N.B.)

The provincial government introduced amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act that would set standardized speed limits in school zones, while allowing variations where warranted by the application of engineering principles.

“The safety of children attending our schools and motorists driving on our highways is our number one priority,” said Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Bill Fraser. “The changes being proposed will contribute to the safety of students, staff and drivers.”

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## **Canadian Trucking Groups Call for Zero Tolerance as Marijuana Legalization Looms**

October 25, 2017, Transport Topics (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Canadian trucking associations are calling for a zero-tolerance policy for marijuana use among drivers as the country prepares to legalize the drug for recreational purposes in July 2018.

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## **British Columbia launches truck safety campaign**

October 24, 2017, Occupational Safety (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

In a British Columbia-wide campaign launched Oct. 17, drivers are being urged to take extra precautions around large trucks to reduce crashes that result in a significant number of fatalities each year in the province.

The Be Truck Aware campaign, led by an alliance of B.C. road safety stakeholders, coincides with Operation Safe Driver week, a continent-wide initiative in which police and Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement (CVSE) officers will be ticketing drivers of both cars and trucks for failing to share the road and follow safe driving practices.

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## 1 year out: Toronto leaders talk about the biggest challenges facing our city

October 22, 2017, CBC News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

It's one year until the next municipal vote in Toronto. That means we'll be hearing more from candidates, city councillors and residents in the coming months, but what do leaders in our community think we should be focusing on in an election year?

We asked developers, police, community organizers and city planners to weigh in.

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## Roadside Testing For Marijuana Use Pilot Underway: Health Minister

October 21, 2017, HuffPost (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

Canada's health minister says pilot projects have begun on roadside police testing for marijuana, and the plan is to have rules in place for edible cannabis around July 2019.

"Our priority right now is to ensure that we can legalize cannabis by July 2018," Ginette Petitpas Taylor said Friday.

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## Ontario Trucking Association wants mandatory drug, alcohol testing for commercial drivers

October 19, 2017, CBC News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The Ontario Trucking Association wants the federal and provincial governments to make drug and alcohol testing mandatory for all commercial drivers.

Earlier in October, the Ontario Provincial Police charged three drivers in northwestern Ontario with impaired driving.

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## **N.B. to impose new measures for drunk drivers starting November 1**

October 19, 2017, CTV News (FREDERICTON, N.B.)

New Brunswick will seize drunk drivers' cars for up to two months under a law that comes into force Nov. 1.

Public Safety Minister Denis Landry says the new law will make the province one of the country's toughest on impaired driving.

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## **Expert hired to consult with taxi industry and help develop made-in-B.C. solution**

October 16, 2017, Government of B.C. (VICTORIA, B.C.)

The Government of British Columbia has hired industry expert Dan Hara to consult with and help prepare the taxi industry for a made-in-B.C. solution to ride-sharing that will allow people to get around more easily, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Claire Trevena announced today.

“People want more options for getting around quickly, safely and affordably, including ride-sharing,” said Trevena. “That’s why we hired industry expert Dan Hara to help us deliver a made-in-B.C. approach to ride-sharing that will keep people safe, and work for all regions of the province.”

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## **Challenging odds for young drivers: one in six could get into a crash and have a 25 per cent risk of injury**

October 16, 2017, ICBC, (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

Every month, at least two youth die in car crashes in B.C. and 20 youth are injured daily. Distracted driving is the main contributing factor for teen drivers in crashes...

...In recognition of National Teen Driver Safety Week in Canada (October 15 to 21), ICBC is highlighting what teens, their family and their friends can do to help encourage smarter choices behind the wheel.

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## Calling on teen drivers to prevent drugged driving and save lives

October 16, 2017, Parachute (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

National Teen Driver Safety Week (NTDSW), an annual public awareness campaign aimed at educating young drivers about road safety, is taking place October 15-21. This year, Parachute and State Farm Canada are calling on teens to help reduce drugged driving and #GetHomeSafe.

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## Government releases legal limits for drugged driving but can't say how much pot is too much

October 13, 2017, CBC News (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The federal government has released a draft of its planned drug concentration levels but admits the new rules provide no guidance on how much marijuana it would take to push a driver over the legal limit.

"It should be noted that THC is a more complex molecule than alcohol and the science is unable to provide general guidance to drivers about how much cannabis can be consumed before it is unsafe to drive or before the proposed levels would be exceeded," an analysis statement released with the draft regulations said.

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## Province releases draft cannabis framework

October 12, 2017, City View Airdrie (AIRDRIE, ALBERTA)

The Province of Alberta released its draft cannabis framework Oct. 4 while at the same time asking Albertans to weigh in on the plan.

"We took what we heard from Albertans, along with what we heard from experts and what we learned from experience in other jurisdictions that have already legalized, as well as conversations with provinces that are working through the same process and crafted the draft framework," said Kathleen Ganley, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, during a press conference in Edmonton Oct. 4.

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## Funding opportunity available now under the Trade and Transportation Corridors Initiative

October 12, 2017, Transport Canada (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Connectivity and automation are creating new possibilities for innovation to enhance the capacity and competitiveness of Canada's transportation system...

...Under the Trade and Transportation Corridors Initiative, \$1.725 M over four years will be available for grants and contributions through Transport Canada's Program to Advance Connectivity and Automation in the Transportation System...

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## ICBC, government and police launch pedestrian safety campaign

October 11, 2017, Canadian Underwriter (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC), provincial government and police launched a pedestrian safety campaign on Wednesday.

"Alarming, a disproportionate number of pedestrian-related crashes and injuries happen in just four months of the year - 43 per cent of all crashes that injure pedestrians happen between October and January as visibility and conditions get worse," ICBC said in a press release.

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## Speed, risk-taking to blame in many accidents involving young drivers

October 10, 2017, CBC News (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

Young drivers are more willing to take risks behind the wheel than adults, which experts say could explain why youth are disproportionately involved in serious accidents in Quebec.

Speed is involved in most road accidents involving drivers between the ages of 16 and 24, said Mario Vaillancourt, a spokesperson for the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ).

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## **Trudeau vowed to legalize marijuana across Canada by July. It hasn't been that easy**

October 5, 2017, Washington Post (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Canada is set to become the first advanced industrialized nation to legalize and regulate marijuana from production to consumption by next July, but increasingly, Canadians are wondering: What's the hurry?

The government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is pressing ahead with legislation to legalize cannabis, a move that a majority of the Canadian public supports. But stakeholders such as police chiefs and psychiatrists are urging caution and even delay, worried that a rush to legalization will encourage consumption among young people and increase the incidence of impaired driving.

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## **Winter 2016 data shows a 10 percent increase in motor-vehicle casualty crashes where driving too fast for the conditions was a contributing factor**

October 2, 2017, Newswire (RICHMOND, B.C.)

Last winter's extreme conditions contributed to a 10 percent increase in motor-vehicle casualty crashes in B.C. between October and December, where driving too fast for the conditions was a contributing factor. This is a 10 per cent increase from 2015, when 570 casualty crashes occurred, as compared to 626 in 2016 (police-attended crashes, 2012-2016).

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## **Iain Black: MLAs need to get moving on ride-hailing services**

October 2, 2017, The Province (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

During the provincial election campaign, all three party leaders pledged to pass long-awaited legislation to allow ride-hailing services in B.C. by the end of this year. Now that the fall legislative session has begun, we are collectively calling on the government to move forward on this issue and ensure a solution is in place to expand transportation options before the next busy summer tourist season.

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## Canadian Events & Conferences in 2017 & 2018

### **Ontario Road Safety Forum - Second Meeting**

Toronto, Ontario  
November 15, 2017  
[Learn more...](#)

### **CCMTA 2018 Annual Meeting**

Quebec City, QC  
June 3-6, 2018  
[Learn more...](#)

### **CARSP Conference 2018**

Victoria, BC  
June 10-13, 2018  
[Learn more...](#)