



# Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period May 1-31, 2018

## Transport Canada supports projects to prepare Canada for connected and automated vehicles

May 29, 2018, Transport Canada (SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN)

Connected and automated vehicles will bring about significant transformation in our transportation system, our communities, and our economy. They have the potential to improve road safety, reduce congestion, increase mobility, protect the environment, and generate new economic opportunities for middle-class Canadians.

The Government of Canada welcomes innovation that will help to create Canada's transportation system of tomorrow. That is why Transport Canada is providing \$2.9M in funding under the program to Advance Connectivity and Automation in the Transportation System in order to help Canadian jurisdictions prepare for connected and automated vehicles.

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## Three crossing guards from B.C. and Ontario chosen as Canada's favourites

May 29, 2018, Cision (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Three exceptional school crossing guards who go above and beyond the call of duty have been chosen as winners of the 2018 Canada's Favourite Crossing Guard Contest. The recipients, who are being recognized for their extraordinary contributions to their communities, will receive their awards over the next few weeks.

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## Remote Control Autonomous Cars Take the Lone Star State by Storm

May 25, 2018, Tech Malak (FRISCO, TEXAS)

Self-driving cars are still in their testing phase and have only started to appear in cities like Tempe, Arizona, San Francisco, and California, as companies like Tesla, Google and Uber start to make the final preparations to release their autonomous automobiles into the wild.

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## Tesla settles class action lawsuit over ‘dangerous’ Autopilot system

May 25, 2018, Globe and Mail (NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK)

Tesla Inc on Thursday reached an agreement to settle a class-action lawsuit with buyers of its Model S and Model X cars who alleged that the company’s assisted-driving Autopilot system was “essentially unusable and demonstrably dangerous.”

The lawsuit said Tesla misrepresented on its website that the cars came with capabilities designed to make highway driving “safer.”

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## Senators drop mandatory alcohol screening from impaired driving bill

May 24, 2018, iPolitics (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

A Senate committee has dispensed with a controversial section of the Liberal government’s impaired driving framework: random breath testing for alcohol impairment.

The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs committee voted six to five to remove the contentious part of Bill C-46 which would have made it easier for police to force drivers to take a breathalyzer test. The change to the bill came amid concerns the provisions could be unconstitutional and lead to years of legal challenges.

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## Saskatchewan sees significant decline in impaired driving deaths

May 24, 2018, Global News (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

The number of people killed in impaired driving crashes in Saskatchewan has declined significantly during 2017.

SGI said there were 39 deaths in the province last year involving alcohol or drugs, down from the five-year average of 57 deaths.

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## Western premiers ask federal government for more help dealing with drug-impaired drivers

May 23, 2018, Globe and Mail (YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.)

Western Canada's premiers are calling on Ottawa to do more to help their provinces enforce drug-impaired driving laws after the legalization of marijuana this year.

A final communiqué issued on Wednesday at the western premiers meeting in Yellowknife also urged the federal government to expedite the approval of a saliva-screening device so police forces across the country can procure the equipment and train their officers accordingly.

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## Province Shares Concerns as Cannabis Legalization Approaches

May 23, 2018, Manitoba Post (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

The Provincial Government has sent off a list of laundry items to a federal Standing Senate Committee to highlight ongoing concerns related to the legalization of cannabis,, including road safety.

“As we address the federal government’s decision to legalize recreational cannabis, our government’s priority is to ensure the public health and safety of Manitobans,” said Minister Stefanson. “While Manitoba continues to make significant progress preparing for the federal legalization of cannabis, many major concerns remain outstanding and require immediate federal attention.”

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## Minister Crocker Highlights Road Safety Plans

May 22, 2018, Government of Newfoundland (ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND)

Mr. Speaker, I rise in this Honourable House today to update Newfoundlanders and Labradorians about our department's plans to increase highway safety for motorists and crews who work in highway construction zones.

Far too often, our contractors report instances of motorists who ignore highway traffic signs, putting the crews' and their own safety in jeopardy.

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## RCMP to receive new training on how to detect drug-impaired driving

May 22, 2018, Global News (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

As the Liberal government inches closer to legalizing marijuana, the RCMP is updating its training for officers to detect impaired driving.

Along with the standard field sobriety testing, officers will now also go through a curriculum called "Introduction to Drug Impaired Driving." Mounties who have already had the standard training will be given access to an online version of the course, a release from Public Safety states.

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## Nearly two years since Toronto announced Vision Zero, the city is on pace for its deadliest year for pedestrians and cyclists

May 16, 2018, Toronto Star (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Within 24 hours of announcing the Vision Zero Challenge on Tuesday, a call for ideas on how Toronto can reach its target of eliminating traffic deaths, one cyclist was dead in the city and two were injured.

The deceased cyclist – a man believed to be in his 50s who has not been identified by police – is the 90th pedestrian or cyclist to die on Toronto streets since June 13, 2016, the day Mayor John Tory announced the initiative that would become Vision Zero – a plan to reduce traffic deaths to zero by 2021.

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## Car data: Utah Tesla driver had hands off wheel before crash

May 16, 2018, CTV News (SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH)

A Utah driver turned on the semi-autonomous functions of her Tesla vehicle and then didn't touch the steering wheel again for 80 seconds before slamming into a firetruck stopped at a red light last week, a summary of data from the car released Wednesday showed.

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## RCMP launches Canada Road Safety Week with increased check stops, traffic enforcement

May 15, 2018, Global News (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

The RCMP is preparing citizens of Saskatchewan for increased check stops and traffic enforcement on roadways as they launch Canada Road Safety Week, which runs May 15-21.

The seven-day national campaign is one of many targeted initiatives the RCMP's Traffic Services Units and Detachments will be a part of this year as they make efforts to create safer roadways in the province.

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## Ontario police sound alarm over perceived lack of funds for impending marijuana legalization

May 15, 2018, Global News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Ontario's chiefs of police are again sounding alarm bells about the impending legalization of recreational cannabis, saying federal funding for police operations may not go far enough to cover increased costs.

At a news conference held by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police in Toronto on Tuesday, Ontario Provincial Police Chief Supt. Chuck Cox said it's fair to assume based on other jurisdictions' experiences that drug-impaired driving will go up once recreational pot is legal, and police will need to train more officers to detect drug impairment.

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## **Fines for unsafe driving go up**

May 15, 2018, Yukon Government (WHITEHORSE, YUKON)

The Government of Yukon updated the Motor Vehicles Regulations and the Summary Convictions Regulations today by increasing fines for distracted driving and speeding offences. The fines were increased to the maximum currently permitted under the Motor Vehicles Act as a deterrence to reduce unsafe driving in the territory.

Amendments include increasing the fines for distracted driving to \$500 from \$250. The Yukon Legislative Assembly unanimously supported a motion in the spring of 2017 calling for increased fines for distracted driving.

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## **If you send a text to a driver and they have an accident, you could be held liable: expert**

May 12, 2018, Global News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

An insurance and legal expert says texters could be held liable for any damages if they message someone they know is driving and that person has an accident.

“There’s an increasing public safety issue of operators of vehicles who are distracted while driving,” lawyer Jordan Solway said in a recent interview.

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## **New Car Seat Grant now available - non-profit organizations should apply**

May 11, 2018, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

A proper car seat is one of the most important ways to keep a baby or small child safe and snug at every age and stage, but there are people who struggle to afford one, or simply don’t know they legally need one.

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## Province Proposing New Traffic Safety Act

May 11, 2018, Government of Nova Scotia (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

Government is planning to replace the Motor Vehicle Act with a new Traffic Safety Act. Nova Scotians will have a chance to provide feedback.

One of the first areas being updated are rules of the road, including distracted driving, speed limits and bicycling.

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## 30th arrive alive DRIVE SOBER® campaign launches ahead of cannabis legalization

May 8, 2018, Cision (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

arrive alive DRIVE SOBER® is launching its 30th annual sober driving campaign in the St. Lawrence Lounge at 900 Bay St from 10:00am until 12:00pm. After 30 years of messaging, arrive alive DRIVE SOBER has become the most recognized road safety campaign in Ontario. We continue to share sober driving initiatives and programs that have helped contribute to a significant decrease in impaired driving fatalities.

Ahead of the legalization of cannabis, this campaign will remind Canadians that driving while impaired by drugs comes with the same risks and consequences as driving while impaired by alcohol. "We encourage all road users to plan ahead for a safe ride home," says Michael Stewart, Program Director with arrive alive DRIVE SOBER.

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## Share the Road and CAA want you to do the Dutch Reach

May 7, 2018, Cision (THORNHILL, ONTARIO)

As more people decide to get outdoors and cycle, and 'dooring' continuing to be an issue, Share the Road Cycling Coalition and CAA South Central Ontario (CAA SCO) are encouraging Ontarians to do the 'Dutch Reach', a life-saving technique that started in the Netherlands, in a new campaign.

"Safety has improved for cyclists in jurisdictions where the Dutch Reach is used by drivers," said Jamie Stuckless, executive director of Share the Road Cycling Coalition.

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## More young people died on Quebec's roads last year, report finds

May 8, 2018, CBC News (QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC)

Young drivers were increasingly involved in fatal collisions on Quebec's roads last year, according to government figures released Tuesday.

Including cyclists and pedestrians, 75 people between the ages of 15 to 24 died in road collisions last year, up from 48 in 2016.

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## Unsafe big rigs need better monitoring, says trucking association

May 4, 2018, CBC News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The province needs to do more in preventing unsafe big rigs from being on the road, according to the Ontario Trucking Association.

Association representatives were commenting, following an OPP blitz that pulled more than half of inspected transport trucks off highways.

Police, alongside the Ministry of Transportation, placed 26 tractor trailers out of service during a two-day safety blitz in Tecumseh and Leamington. In total, they inspected 47 commercial vehicles.

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## String of crashes ushers in trauma season in Southwestern Ontario

May 3, 2018, London Free Press (LONDON, ONTARIO)

...In the fallout of this week's mayhem on Southwestern Ontario roads came dire warnings from the Ontario Provincial Police about the dangers of excessive speed and inattention on the road and the not-so-subtle suggestion winter-weary drivers may be throwing caution to the wind as temperatures soar....

..."People travel more come spring and summer, even the fall, and less in the wintertime," said Brian Jonah, an Ottawa-based consultant and past president of the Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals.

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## ICBC and police launch high-risk driving campaign

May 1, 2018, ICBC (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

High-risk driving behaviours, like speeding, increase your chances of crashing. In 2016 alone, there were 330,000 crashes in B.C. - that's 900 crashes per day. And the number of crashes and claims have been growing steadily over the years.

On top of that, the costs of those claims are ballooning and injury claims costs alone are now close to \$3 billion a year.

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## Canadian Events & Conferences in 2018

**The 10th International ACM Conference  
on Automotive User Interfaces and  
Interactive Vehicular Applications**

Toronto, Ontario

September 23-25, 2018

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