



# Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the period July 16<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014

## **Motorists reminded to slow to 60 km/hr in work zones**

July 31, 2014, Government of Saskatchewan (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

With Saskatchewan's short highway construction season passing the halfway point, the government reminds motorists to always slow to 60 km/hr when they encounter work zones.

"Remember to slow to 60 km/hr when you pass through any of Saskatchewan's many construction zones this summer and fall - it's the law, and it could save someone's life," Highways and Infrastructure Minister Nancy Heppner said.

"Nothing is more important than ensuring the people undertaking this important work get home safely to their loved ones at the end of the day."

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## **B.C. phasing in new 120 km/h limit on some major highways**

July 30, 2014, Driving.ca (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

Travelers on some of British Columbia's major highways take note: your eyes aren't deceiving you, posted speed limits along some sections have gone up. You might have heard recently the provincial government announced it's phasing in new speed limits over the summer on 35 sections of highway covering about 1,300 km.

The increases, to a new maximum of 120 km/h, are on sections of highways such as the Trans-Canada, Coquihalla and Sea to Sky.

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## CAA launches six-week long distracted driving campaign

July 29, 2014, Global News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

For the third year in a row, the Canadian Automobile Association is targeting distracted drivers with the launch of a six-week long safety campaign.

The aim is to raise awareness regarding high risk behaviours behind the wheel and to urge drivers to focus on the road.

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## Volvo's new road-sensing safety features go the extra mile

July 28, 2014, CBC News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

A drowsy driver is about to drift off the road when suddenly the seat belt tightens, or extra torque is applied to the steering wheel and the vehicle pulls itself back on track.

Or maybe a driver is turning in front of an unseen oncoming car when on-board radar and a tiny camera prompt the brakes to kick in automatically, avoiding a collision.

As futuristic as such scenarios seem, Swedish auto giant Volvo is turning these possibilities into reality when it reveals its new XC90 luxury SUV next month...

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## Mandatory truck side guards urged in U.S.

July 24, 2014, Globe and Mail (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The U.S. transportation safety board is urging regulators to make side guards mandatory on new trucks to help prevent cars, pedestrians and cyclists from hurtling under the bone-crushing haulers - a move that could put pressure on Canada to act.

The side-guard recommendation and other proposals aimed at reducing injuries and deaths on American roads are before the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). A rule-making process on strengthening rear truck guards began this month, while an evaluation of side guards is continuing.

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## Quebec coroner compares driving drowsy to driving drunk

July 22, 2014, CBC News (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

A Quebec coroner is calling for more severe regulations concerning people who drive while fatigued.

Coroner Quoc-Bao Do equated driving while drowsy with driving under the influence and said drivers should be subject to similar hefty fines and penalties.

In addition, Do made two recommendations based on a three-year investigation into a February 2011 collision that killed five men in the Lanaudière region.

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## ICBC survey: nearly one third of parents admit to passing bad driving habits to teens

July 22, 2014, ICBC (BURNABY, B.C.)

Now that summer's in full swing, many teenagers may be eager to learn how to drive and gain more independence. In 2013, approximately 46,000 B.C. teens (aged 16 to 19) got their learner's licence.

While the idea of having another licensed driver in the house can be exciting, this rite of passage can also be a stressful time for parents. Driving is particularly risky for new drivers because they lack experience. Not only are they more prone to crash but on average, 18 per cent of crashes involving young drivers result in an injury or fatality.\*

In a recent survey conducted by ICBC, 29 per cent of parents surveyed believed their teens had picked up a bad driving habit from them...

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## Texting addicts a threat

July 21, 2014, Winnipeg Free Press (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

The Canadian Automobile Association has again raised the alarm about the apparently high number of people who continue to use their electronic devices while driving, which according to some sources can be more dangerous than drunk driving. The CAA wants tougher penalties to put the brakes on the problem.

It's a fair proposal, but if higher fines don't change behaviour, will jail terms be next? How far should society go to protect itself?

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## Opinion: New limits may charge a death toll: Raising speeds flies in the face of road safety, B.C. doctors warn

July 17, 2014, Vancouver Sun (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

I write on behalf of B.C.'s public health physicians who responded to the call for submissions to the B.C. Safety and Speed Review. It is with concern that we greet the recent announcement of higher speed limits on a number of B.C.'s provincial highways.

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## To drive and protect: How you can save police from roadside injuries

July 17, 2014, Road Safety at Work (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

Police officers not only enforce Cone Zones, they are also protected by them.

Sure, bright orange pylons aren't usually present to announce when an officer is in a vulnerable position, but drivers should still approach with caution police and other emergency personnel working along roads.

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## **New traffic laws removing risky drivers from Saskatchewan roads**

July 17, 2014, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

Saskatchewan's new traffic laws have only been in place for just over two weeks, but already 271 motorists have received licence suspensions and 380 have had their vehicles seized.

Traffic law changes took effect in Saskatchewan on June 27, 2014. During the period from June 27-July 15, 2014, drivers received the following penalties...

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## **Will Alberta's new licence plate make Alberta roads safer?**

July 17, 2014, Sunny South News (COALDALE, ALBERTA)

With an over \$15 million dollar price tag, Albertan's are invited to participate in an online survey now until Aug. 19 to choose which of three proposed designs will be featured on a new provincial licence plate starting in the spring of 2015. The design that receives the most votes will be selected as the new plate.

According to a recent media release, Alberta's new licence plate will incorporate a new design and new features to help make roads safer.

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## **SQ, construction commission team up for road safety**

July 15, 2014, Montreal Gazette (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

The Sûreté du Québec is reminding drivers to slow down during the busy summer construction holiday.

The SQ announced details of an education campaign on Tuesday that aims to help reduce the number of crashes during the holiday, which lasts from July 20 to Aug. 3. And for the first time, the SQ is partnering with Quebec's construction commission, which estimates that 80 per cent of its workers go on holidays, most of those touring Quebec.

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## Cyclist safety fears prompt review of Quebec road laws

July 15, 2014, CBC News (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

Olympian Louis Garneau will head a new committee tasked with finding ways to make Quebec's traffic laws safer for cyclists.

The province is looking to eventually amend its highway traffic code.

Transport Minister Robert Poëti said he is worried about the high number of collisions involving cyclists, trucks and pedestrians in the past three months.

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## Improving pedestrian safety

July 15, 2014, Coast Reporter (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

When it comes to designing and implementing road safety measures, the group most often left out of the mix are also the most vulnerable – pedestrians.

Canada is rather less successful than most other OECD countries, lagging behind in many ways. Fortunately, many ideas that work well have already been proven in other jurisdictions, so we do not have to reinvent much.

From 1989 to 2009 almost 9,000 pedestrians were killed on Canadian roads, and hundreds of thousands were injured. Much of the blame for this can be laid on our tradition of designing roads from the perspective of motor vehicles and their occupants rather than that of the vulnerable road user.

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## Drivers won't put the brakes on cell use

July 15, 2014, Brandon Sun (BRANDON MANITOBA)

It has become obvious the threat of killing somebody -- even themselves -- isn't a big enough deterrent to keep many Manitobans from texting or talking while behind the wheel.

Now CAA members are proposing something even more horrifying -- bigger fines.

The fourth annual survey on distracted driving found 99 per cent of the more than 7,000 members who participated said they still see people on their phones while driving. Another solid majority, 82 per cent, believe it's unlikely the offending drivers will be caught by police.

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## Canadian Events & Conferences in 2014 & 2015

### **TAC Fall Technical Meeting**

Montreal, Quebec

September 24 - 27, 2014

[Learn more...](#)

### **TAC Annual Conference & Exhibition – Transportation – Past, Present & Future**

Montreal, Quebec

September 28 - October 1, 2014

[Learn more...](#)

### **ACT Canada (Association of Commuter Transportation of Canada) Sustainable Mobility and Healthy Communities Summit – 2014**

Markham, Ontario

November 30 - December 3, 2014

[Learn more...](#)

### **25th CARSP Conference (formerly Canadian Multidisciplinary Road Safety Conference or CMRSC).**

Delta Ottawa City Centre

Ottawa, Ontario

May 27 - 30, 2015

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If you are aware of road safety news items or upcoming conferences that should be included in this Safety News Digest, please forward them to [info@carsp.ca](mailto:info@carsp.ca)

