



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the period October 1st to 15th, 2014

When the rubber hits the road, what teen drivers don't know can hurt them

October 15, 2014, Canada Newswire (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

As any parent knows, raising teenagers is full of challenges especially once they start to drive. Not only are parents anxious, but teen drivers often have a sense of invincibility that can quickly see them fall prey to dangerous and often illegal driving behaviours. Whether it's drinking or getting high behind the wheel, or driving while texting, many teenagers don't realize how unsafe these behaviours are.

...While a number of these activities are already illegal, many dangerous driving misconceptions still persist. With (National) Teen Driving Safety Week (October 19 to 25) around the corner, RBC Insurance debunks the top five most common driving misconceptions.

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Off road vehicle course keeps students safe - Okotoks: Program aims to reach rural students

October 15, 2014, Western Wheel (OKOTOKS, ALBERTA)

Heritage Heights students eager to hop on their ATVs and snowmobiles this winter will be making smarter decisions that will help keep them safe.

Students in Grades one through six attended a crash course in off road vehicle safety from the Alberta Snowmobile Association last week, teaching them about how to ride safely and the consequences if they choose not to.

Instructor Lori Zacaruk has been giving these presentations for 15 years at schools throughout Western Canada and said they target rural schools because off-highway vehicles are common place for those students.

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Three Centennial Road Safety Awards given at TAC Conference

October 14, 2014, TAC 2014 Conference (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

The Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) handed out three centennial road safety awards at its 2014 Conference & Exhibition in Montreal, Quebec.

Created to celebrate progress in the field of road safety over the past 100 years in Canada, at the request of TAC's Road Safety Standing Committee, the awards in the following categories were presented:

Academic Research - Dr. Tarek Sayed
Public Sector - Ms. Jeanette Espie
Outstanding Career - Dr. Ezra Hauer

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Rising injuries among older male motorcyclists: study

October 14, 2014, Yahoo Canada (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

Motorcycle injuries requiring a trip to the hospital have increased in recent years among older male riders, while injury rates for women and younger men haven't changed, according to a new study from Canada.

The spike in injuries among men over 45 suggests that more male Baby Boomers are taking to two wheels as a leisure activity, and they may need training and other injury prevention strategies, say the researchers.

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Are Ontario highways in the slow lane? Some argue higher speed limits would lead to safer roads

October 11, 2014, Brant News (BRANTFORD, ONTARIO)

Chris Klimek believes there is growing consensus in North America that driving faster on major highways is actually safer and can reduce the number of motor-vehicle accidents that take place. "There is much misconception about driving fast and driving safe," said Klimek, founder of Stop100, an advocacy group that has been working to raise Ontario highway speed limits from 100 km per hour to 120 km per hour and 130 km per hour in express lanes.

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Transport Ministry permanently cuts ties with Canada border agency

October 10, 2014, Toronto Star (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The controversial practice of using commercial roadside vehicle blitzes to round up undocumented workers is over.

Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca said Friday that partnering with the Canada Border Services Agency doesn't make sense, as he officially cut ties with the organization in light of a controversial roundup of undocumented workers in August that sparked an internal ministry review...

...“The review found that the partnership with the Canada Border Services Agency did not align with our mandate” of road safety, stated Del Duca.

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Ontario ends joint safety blitzes with Border Services Agency

October 10, 2014, CTV News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Ontario will no longer allow the Canada Border Services Agency to join the province's road safety blitzes, which federal agents have used to make arrests on immigration violations, the government announced Friday.

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Tractor-trailer drivers not tested on highways at Ontario's busiest test centre

October 10, 2014, Toronto Star (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Tractor-trailer drivers are earning their licences at Ontario's busiest truck testing centre without being taken on a major expressway, a Star investigation has found.

While car drivers travel on highways during their road tests, the Ministry of Transportation – which oversees all vehicle licensing in the province – allows tractor-trailer candidates to avoid being tested on highways with high speeds and merge lanes, where most trucking takes place.

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Access gates in moose fencing

October 10, 2014, Government of New Brunswick (FREDERICTON, N.B.)

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure continues to receive reports of access gates in wildlife fencing being left open.

Leaving these gates open puts the travelling public at higher risk of being involved in a moose collision. The integrity of wildlife fencing is critical to highway safety.

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Anti-drunk driving group supports Iqaluit beer wine store

October 9, 2014, CBC News (IQALUIT, NUNUVIT)

Mothers Against Drunk Driving is weighing in on whether the Nunavut government should open a pilot beer and wine store in the capital.

The territorial government has put forward the idea as a harm reduction approach, arguing that a direct-sales model would help curb bootlegging and binge-drinking, because the store would only sell beer and wine – not hard liquor.

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Group uses ‘geofencing’ to warn against walking and texting

October 9, 2014, CTV News (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

The dangers of texting while driving are well known, but a B.C. safety organization is taking new steps to get people to think twice before texting while walking.

This fall, Preventable BC has been using “geofencing” technology to send pedestrians at certain busy intersections in Vancouver and Victoria a reminder of the dangers of texting while walking.

When people with geo-enabled mobile devices cross the virtual boundary set up at these intersections, they will receive this message from Preventable: “If you’re texting while walking, have a word with yourself.”

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Texting while driving: That'll cost you

October 9, 2014, Montreal Gazette (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

Demerit points for cellphone use while driving in Quebec will go from three points to four as soon as next spring, possibly by February.

If the rules change, Quebec will be one of three provinces to assign four demerits, the harshest in the country.

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B.C. takes first step in renewed fight against distracted driving

October 8, 2014, Government of B.C. (VICTORIA, B.C.)

The Province is taking a first step in what will be a two-part approach to protect British Columbians from distracted drivers on roads and highways.

First, effective Oct. 20, 2014, amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA) regulations will increase the driver penalty points from zero to three for drivers who are caught talking on a handheld device while driving. This new penalty, which also covers infractions like watching a DVD, programming a phone's GPS, and operating hand-held audio players, is being combined with the \$167 fine already in place and is now consistent with the three points and \$167 fine currently given to drivers for texting.

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MADD Canada supports development of automated vehicles to improve road safety

October 8, 2014, MADD Canada (OAKVILLE, ONTARIO)

MADD Canada is excited about the possibilities of self-driving vehicles, and supports the development of advanced technology that will reduce crashes, fatalities and injuries on our roadways.

"MADD Canada looks forward to the advancements in automated vehicle technology that will eventually eliminate impaired driving completely," said Andrew Murie, Chief Executive Officer of MADD Canada.

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Canadian teens catch distracted drivers red handed

October 8, 2014, Canada Newswire (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

High school students across Canada were out in force at busy intersections across Canada, working with Allstate Agents to catch distracted drivers. Over a one-hour period, students in 11 Canadian cities observed 11,801 morning commuters. During the event, 39 per cent of drivers observed were engaging in some form of distraction behind the wheel.

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Talking cars actually more dangerous, studies find

October 7, 2014, CBC News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Two new studies have found that voice-activated smartphones and dashboard infotainment systems may be making the distracted-driving problem worse instead of better.

The systems let drivers do things like tune the radio, send a text message, or make a phone call while keeping their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel, but many of these systems are so error-prone or complex that they require more concentration from drivers rather than less, according to studies released Tuesday by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety and the University of Utah.

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More than 160 road deaths attributed to Big Four this year says OPP

October 7, 2014, Canada Newswire (ORILLIA, ONTARIO)

The "Big Four" were contributing factors in 168 of the 216 road deaths investigated by the OPP this year (2014). The "Big Four" refers to the four main causal factors in motor vehicle collision deaths: distracted driving, speeding, impaired driving and lack of occupant restraint. These four factors are the leading causes of collision deaths throughout Canada.

For this reason, the OPP will be joining policing partners across the country for Operation Impact - a national road safety enforcement and education campaign endorsed by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP).

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2014 Campaign - “Pedestrians aren’t protected like cars, and have no chance against one”

October 7, 2014, SAAQ (QUEBEC, QUEBEC)

The SAAQ is launching an awareness campaign to improve the safety of pedestrians at intersections. It is aimed at pedestrians and drivers, both of whom need to change their habits. The campaign focuses on intersections because 55% of pedestrians killed or injured in 2013 were involved in an accident at an intersection.

The campaign includes a TV commercial, a radio ad, a publicity stunt and a Web message.

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Can I get the other driver’s cellphone records to determine fault in an accident?

October 7, 2014, Globe and Mail (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

My wife was involved in a motor vehicle collision - she was in the centre lane and had a vehicle cross over the lane markings and side swipe her from the left. Our insurance has still not come to the determination that the accident was no fault of my wife, as she was hit from her rear bumper and up the left side of her vehicle, up to the middle of her driver side door. Is it possible to obtain the cellphone records of the other motorist to confirm or discount distracted driving as the cause of the accident - that is, the other driver texting/e-mailing while driving? - Ilija

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2014 Campaign - “All drugs can be detected. If you take drugs, don’t drive.”

October 6, 2014, SAAQ (QUEBEC, QUEBEC)

The SAAQ is launching a new awareness-raising campaign to remind the public that Québec’s police officers have the ability to tell if a driver is under the influence of any drug, and can arrest the driver if such is the case.

The campaign, which mainly targets drivers between 16 and 24 years of age, includes an online video clip and a Web banner.

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Canadian Linen and Uniform Service installs 'Safety Driven' Telematics Technology in entire fleet for Drive Safely Work Week

October 6, 2014, Digital Journal (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Canadian Linen and Uniform Service, a leading textile services and supply company in North America, today announced it has installed a new 'Safety Driven' telematics technology across its entire fleet in conjunction with Drive Safely Work Week. The inthinc® technology has been incorporated into more than 1,800 vehicles companywide and the new platform promotes safe driving among more than 1,500 drivers and service managers through real-time driver monitoring and voice coaching, while also increasing fuel efficiency and reducing fleet and delivery costs.

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Time to shift into winter

October 6, 2014, Canada Newswire (RICHMOND, B.C.)

Winter is on the way to British Columbia and it is time for drivers to prepare themselves and their vehicles.

Winter is a dangerous time of year for drivers. Between October and December, on average, the number of crashes resulting in injury or fatality around the province due to driving too fast for the conditions spikes significantly.

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Texting while driving adding to death toll in N.B., RCMP say - Fines for distracted driving on the rise in other provinces

October 3, 2014, CBC News (FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK)

New Brunswick RCMP say motorists continue to text and drive, despite distracted driving being deemed the No. 1 cause of fatal crashes in at least three other provinces, and neurologists are suggesting it's even more dangerous than drinking and driving.

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Near miss leads to call for distracted driving law in Nunavut

October 3, 2014, CBC News (IQALUIT, NUNAVUT)

An Iqaluit mother is raising concerns after she says she was almost hit by a driver who was distracted by her phone.

Nunavut is the only place in Canada without a law against distracted driving.

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Canada's transportation ministers approve changes to trucking regulations and the National Safety Code

October 3, 2014, Government of Yukon (WHITEHORSE, YUKON)

Federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Transportation and Highway Safety endorsed changes to regulations for commercial heavy trucks, as well as updates to the National Safety Code (NSC), at the conclusion of the Transportation Association of Canada annual conference in Montreal, Quebec on October 1.

“The continued harmonization and standardizing of regulations across Canada will make shipping to and from Yukon more efficient,” Minister of Highways and Public Works Wade Istchenko said. “The changes to the National Safety Code will improve the safety of drivers and support an ongoing commitment to ensuring that Canada and Yukon roads are among the safest in the world.”

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Legacy of 4-year-old killed by drunk driver continues

October 3, 2014, Kelowna Now (KELOWNA, B.C.)

The legacy of Alexa Middelaer continues with a new bus to fight against drinking and driving.

Four-year-old Alexa was with her aunt feeding a horse on the side of the road when she was struck and killed in May of 2008. Carol Berner, who was over the legal limit, was also 40 km over the speed limit and lost control, hitting both Alexa and her aunt by a Delta ranch. Berner was sentenced to 30 months in prison in 2010.

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MP asks government to change law on blood-alcohol samples

October 2, 2014, Ottawa Citizen (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Justice Minister Peter MacKay is mulling a request to extend the period during which police can obtain warrants for blood-alcohol samples from impaired drivers after accidents.

Potentially impaired drivers who are injured in a crash are often sent to hospital before police start investigating. In these cases, Criminal Code section 256 currently allows police four hours to get a warrant to for a blood sample if a physician believes the driver is unable to consent.

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Alberta employer liable for employee's negligent driving of company vehicle - even though employer told him not to drive it

October 2, 2014, Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Law (CALGARY, ALBERTA)

Alberta employers should heed a recent appeal decision in which an employer was held liable for damage caused by an employee while driving a company vehicle - even though he was told not to drive it.

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Maritime RCMP officer recognized for efforts to combat impaired driving

October 2, 2014, Global News (AMHERST, NOVA SCOTIA)

A Maritime RCMP officer has made his community proud by winning a prestigious national award.

Const. Travise Dow of the Amherst, N.S. detachment was awarded MADD Canada's 2014 Terry Ryan Memorial Award for excellence in police services. The award was to recognize Dow's tireless work in combating impaired driving through enforcement and education.

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Distracted drivers to face more demerits in B.C.

October 2, 2014, Vancouver Sun (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

The B.C. government plans to roll out new sanctions against distracted driving in the next three months, but they are unlikely to include stiffer fines, says Attorney General Suzanne Anton.

A senior Victoria police officer has called for fines that are higher than the \$167 introduced on Feb. 1, 2010, but Anton said that is not being considered.

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Minister Raitt addresses delegates at Transportation Association of Canada's annual conference - Highlights need for ongoing safe and secure transportation in Canada

October 1, 2014, Transport Canada (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Transport, was in Montreal today at the Transportation Association of Canada's (TAC) annual conference where she marked its 100th anniversary and spoke to delegates about the important role transportation plays in supporting trade and economic growth.

The Minister detailed the Government of Canada's commitment to the safety and security of Canada's transportation system and discussed the measures that the Harper government has taken to address rail safety. She also spoke about the government's statutory review of the Canada Transportation Act, which is aimed at ensuring that the legislation supports a modern, efficient and competitive transportation sector that is able to respond to future demands.

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Nova Scotia texting-while-driving penalties increasing

October 1, 2014, CBC News (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

Nova Scotia will soon increase fines and penalties for texting while driving.

After Feb. 1, the new fines will be:

\$233.95 for a first offence (rising from \$176.45).

\$578.95 for a third or subsequent offence (up from \$348.95).

Four demerit points added upon conviction.

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Insurance survey shows Canadians still driving using smartphones despite fines

October 1, 2014, eCanadaNow (WOODSTOCK, ONTARIO)

Driving in Canada while using a smartphone seems to be a bad habit that's hard to break. Even though most provinces throughout the country have regulated fines for those caught using electronic devices while trying to navigate traffic, a recent insurance survey has turned up the bad news that Canadians continue to use their smartphones and other electronic devices even when behind the wheel of their cars. Allstate Insurance recently conducted a national survey of more than 1200 drivers. This Canada Distracted Driver Poll revealed some very disturbing statistics.

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2014 & 2015

National Teen Driver Safety Week

Various Events across Canada

October 19-25, 2014

[Learn more about Project Gearshift](#)

[Learn more about IKnowEverything Campaign](#)

International Conference on Transportation Innovation

Theme: Connectivity – Driving Future
Transportation

University of Alberta

Edmonton, Alberta

October 21-22, 2014

[Learn more...](#)

National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims

National Event

Glenn Gould Studio, Toronto, Ontario

November 19, 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).

Call for Abstracts Deadline Oct 31, 2014

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

