



# Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period January 1-31, 2025

## **Ford, Acura, Land Rover recall vehicles over safety risks**

January 1 2025, CTV News

Ford Canada issued a recall for four 2024 models, warning of issues on vehicles with 3.5-litre turbo engines that can increase the risk of a crash or fire.

“The rear engine cup plug may not have been installed properly,” the company said in a recall posted by Transport Canada last week. “As a result, engine oil could leak and cause a loss of power to the wheels.”

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## **New impaired driving rules in effect on N.B. roads**

January 3 2025, Penticton Herald

New impaired driving laws, in effect in New Brunswick as of Jan. 1, are designed to strengthen administrative penalties.

New rules allow for on-site, short-term license suspension, vehicle impoundment, and fees for blood alcohol content (BAC) above 0.05 or greater during a standard field sobriety test.

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## **New train detection system on track to alert motorists, first responders about railway traffic**

January 3 2025, CTV News

Winnipeg may soon see a new train detection system that lets motorists know when to use alternate routes and avoid railway crossings.

On Jan. 9, the city's Standing Policy Committee on Public Works is expected to discuss and approve a grant from Transport Canada that would see the implementation of new technology from a Winnipeg-based company known as Trainfo.

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## **How Ontario's getting tougher on impaired drivers in 2025**

January 6 2025, Driving.ca

Strict new regulations targeting Ontario drivers who choose to drive whilst impaired have just come into effect at the beginning of this year. The changes were initially announced last May, pending the passing of legislation. Starting immediately, anyone convicted of impaired driving will have to install an ignition interlock device in their vehicle, and also undergo mandatory education and treatment for first- and second-time alcohol- and drug-related offences, respectively.

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## Here's how many people were charged with impaired driving over the holidays in northeastern Ontario

January 9 2025, CBC

Between Nov. 21, 2024, and Jan. 1, 2025, OPP officers across the province laid 743 impaired driving charges and issued 155 roadside warn-range suspensions. In northeast Ontario, officers made 1,525 RIDE checks, resulting in 139 impaired driving charges and 26 warn-range suspensions.

Last year, officers in the northeast laid 162 impaired charges and 26 warn-range suspensions following 1,699 RIDE check events. That's about 20 more charges and 174 more stops than the 2024/25 season.

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## Advocate says Halifax goals for safety unmet after pedestrian killed

January 9 2025, CBC

Halifax safety advocates are calling for government action to reduce the number of pedestrians injured or killed by cars, after the death of a senior who was hit while walking on a marked crosswalk earlier this week.

The city set a goal in 2018 to cut the number of pedestrians killed or injured in collisions by 20 per cent over five years, but data shows that target wasn't reached. As well, police are distributing significantly fewer tickets in recent years for speeding or distracted driving, the data shows.

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## The Road to Safety: Oakville's Automated Speed Enforcement camera installation has begun

January 9 2025, Oakville

Making road safety a key priority, the Town of Oakville is preparing to launch the Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) Program at the end of January 2025. The installation of 14 cameras began this week and will continue over the next few days as crews set up and conduct testing.

Since August 2024, "coming soon" signs have been placed at the camera locations to provide advance notification to the community. Details of the 14 locations are available in the Automated Speed Enforcement page.

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## How 2024 Has Quickly Become The Deadliest Year For Cyclists And Pedestrians

January 9 2025, Mondaq

2024 is quickly becoming the most dangerous year for pedestrians and cyclists as we see a rise in the death toll. This begs the question why is this happening? Aren't there safety measures taken to ensure pedestrian and cyclists feel safe when on the streets?

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## Saanich to expropriate land to create new bike lanes

January 10 2025, Canadian Cycling Magazine

The District of Saanich, B.C., is moving forward with plans to expropriate land along two major intersections to enhance cycling and pedestrian safety if negotiations with property owners fall through. Council approved the measure during its Jan. 6 meeting, setting the stage for potential land acquisition at Richmond Road and Haultain Street, as well as Shelbourne Street and Cedar Hill Cross Road.

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## Uptown Mobility Hub makes taking the bus an easier choice

January 13 2025, BC Government News

Major improvements to the Uptown area of Saanich will make it easier for people to choose transit to get around Greater Victoria.

A contract has been awarded for the completion of the Ravine Way Transit and Active Transportation Improvements at the Uptown Mobility Hub. This hub will become the region's principal RapidBus exchange and route connector.

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## **AMTA launches campaign to address distracted driving**

January 13 2025, Trucknews.com

The Alberta Motor Transport Association (AMTA) is launching a three-month campaign to combat distracted driving in the province's commercial transportation sector and among the motoring public. The campaign comes as distracted driving remains a critical safety issue. According to Transport Canada's National Collision Database, distracted driving contributed to an estimated 22.5% of fatal collisions and 25.5% of serious injury collisions in 2021. In Alberta alone, there were 12,928 convictions for distracted driving in 2023.

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## **Fatal car crashes in Canada - what's causing them?**

January 14 2025, Insurance Business

A study conducted by Preszler Law Alberta examined the causes of fatal car crashes in Canada over a five-year period from 2018 to 2022, with human factors revealed as the leading contributor, accounting for 65.9% of deadly collisions during that time. Driver errors, including behaviours such as following too closely, failing to obey traffic signals, incomplete stops at stop signs, and misjudging speed or distance, were cited as common causes. Impaired driving and speeding Impaired driving was ranked as the second major contributor, responsible for 25.7% of fatal motor vehicle collisions during the study period.

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## Ontario trucking associations push for safety, compliance reforms in talks with government

January 15 2025, Trucknews.com

A coalition of trucking industry associations is urging the Ontario government to take action and help address problems ranging from road safety and driver training standards to compliance enforcement – issues they describe as causing a critical decline in industry professionalism and public safety.

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## Reflective Risks: High-vis clothing may be invisible to crash prevention sensors

January 15 2025, Collision Repair Magazine

High-visibility clothing may be invisible to automated crash prevention systems, according to a new study from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

The study investigated the effects of conspicuous clothing and increased roadway lighting on the performance of the pedestrian AEB systems installed in three 2023 models—a Honda CR-V, Mazda CX-5 and Subaru Forester.

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## Are headlights getting brighter? Is there a limit to how bright they can be?

January 19 2025, The Globe and Mail

LED, or light-emitting diode, headlights put out more light and are more intense compared with older technology such as halogen and high-intensity discharge (HID) xenon lights, experts say.

They can show the driver more things not to hit, but it also means other road users' eyes are more likely to be within a high-intensity area of any vehicle's beams," which causes glare, says Daniel Stern, a Vancouver-based lighting consultant and chief editor of Driving Vision News, a technical journal.

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## Road salt is keeping drivers safe but harming the environment, researchers say

January 19 2025, CBC

Sprinkling salt on the road or sidewalk after snowfall can make conditions safer for drivers and pedestrians, but can cause harm to local waterways and wildlife, London, Ont., researchers say.

People studying salt pollution are calling on cities and residents to consider the type and amount of salt they use this winter.

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## Is your car spying on you? Here's how vehicles gather your data

Jan 19 2025, CBC

When a Tesla Cyber truck exploded outside Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas on New Year's Day, authorities were quickly able to gather information, crediting Elon Musk and Tesla for sending them info about the car and its driver. But for some, it's alarming to discover that kind of information is so readily available.

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## City of Toronto expands Administrative Penalty System to include automated road safety tools

January 20 2025, Toronto.ca

Starting today, the City of Toronto is expanding its Administrative Penalty System (APS) to make it easier, more convenient and accessible to dispute Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) and Red-Light Camera (RLC) violations. Vehicle owners who receive an ASE or RLC violation that occurred on or after Monday, January 20 can dispute the violation online at [toronto.ca/aps](https://toronto.ca/aps).

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## Speed leading factor in 12 snowmobile deaths in Manitoba since 2021: MPI

January 21 2025, CBC

The first two months of the year are the deadliest for snowmobilers across Manitoba, which saw a dozen people die in snowmobiling crashes between 2021 and 2024, according to the province's public insurer.

Manitoba Public Insurance provided the statistics at a Tuesday news conference in partnership with Snoman Inc., reminding snowmobilers to stay safe outdoors.

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## Young Drivers: High Risk, Higher Insurance Costs

January 22 2025, Westmountmag.ca

Car insurance premiums for young drivers in Montreal are notoriously higher than those for older, more experienced drivers. This disparity is not arbitrary; it is backed by statistical data and risk assessment models used by insurance companies. Understanding the underlying factors can help young drivers take steps to manage their premiums effectively while staying insured.

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## Halifax concerned about quality of collision data from police

January 24 2025, CBC

New data shows there were fewer deaths, but more injuries, on Halifax roads in 2023 compared with the previous year.

However, municipal staff said they couldn't break down the injuries by severity because police reports have not always been accurate.

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## Numerous unlicensed drivers on the road risk fines of up to \$1000

January 27 2025, Ottawa Police

The Ottawa Police Traffic Unit is noticing numerous unlicensed drivers on the road daily.

It is the driver's responsibility to look after their driving license affairs and ensure they renew their license plates. Drivers can sign up on the Service Ontario website to get text and email reminders that their license will expire and renew before expiration.

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## 2024 marks highest number of fatal road collisions in over a decade

January 30 2025, CBC

Calgary police are urging people to focus on keeping the roads safe after 2024 saw the highest number of fatal road collisions since 2013.

The Calgary Police Service (CPS) says it responded to 29 fatal traffic collisions – 13 of which involved pedestrians – in 2024, the majority of which occurred in the final quarter of the year.

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## City of Toronto publishes new transportation datasets that highlight travel trends and support traffic management actions

January 31 2025, Toronto.ca

Today, the City of Toronto published additional transportation datasets to the City's Open Data Portal, reinforcing its commitment to transparency, openness and data-driven transportation planning. The datasets include motor vehicle and bike lane counts.

The City uses this data, along with transportation studies, public consultations and other data points and insights to inform the planning and design of new and upgraded transportation infrastructure.

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# Canadian Events & Conferences in 2025

## **CARSP Winter Webinars**

January - March 2025

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## **Ontario Traffic Council Events**

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## **MTO 2025 Road Safety Events Calendar**

January 1- December 31, 2025

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## **Connecting Road Safety Partners**

January 1- March 31, 2025

[Learn more](#)

## **CARSP/ICTCT 2025 Conference**

May 20-23, 2025

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## **10th Student Safety Technology Design Competition**

May 12-15, 2026

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