



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period March 1-31, 2025

How far should I stay back from the car in front of me while driving?

March 2 2025, The Globe and Mail

The law doesn't say how far you need to be from the car in front of you - it just says to be "reasonable." But that's more space than most of us think, safety experts said.

Section 158 of Ontario's Highway Traffic Act states you must not follow another vehicle "more closely than is reasonable and prudent having due regard for the speed of the vehicle and the traffic on and the conditions of the highway."

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Speed limit to increase in nearly 200 school zones in Mississauga

March 3 2025, Insauga

Posted speed limits in nearly 200 Mississauga school zones will soon increase to 40 km/h outside of school hours, city officials say.

Under a plan approved by city council this past October, the new signage will be posted starting this spring in 199 school zones on local roads where the speed limit is currently 30 km/h (at all times) and in another 31 school zones on major roads.

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Province spending \$311M on roads to increase safety and mobility in northern Alberta

March 4 2025, CTV News

The province says wildfires have reinforced the urgent need for safe and reliable evacuation routes in northern Alberta. If Budget 2025 is passed, the province plans to spend \$311 million over three years to increase emergency routes in the north.

One major project will be a road extending Highway 686 between Peerless Lake and Fort McMurray. It will add 218 kilometers of new highway creating a “critical east-west corridor” in northern Alberta.

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OPP cracking down on distracted driving

March 8 2025, sarnianewstoday.ca

West Region Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) will be on the lookout for distracted drivers.

The OPP is conducting its "Stay Focused" campaign in an effort to reduce the amount of deaths and injuries caused by inattentive driving on roads and highways.

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Pedestrians now have 5-second head start at nearly 100 downtown Winnipeg intersections

March 11 2025, CBC

Pedestrians now get a head start when crossing the road at nearly 100 intersections in downtown Winnipeg.

The city has implemented what are called "leading pedestrian intervals," which give pedestrians the walk signal five seconds before drivers travelling in the same direction get their green light, at the intersections, the City of Winnipeg said in a news release Monday.

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Ontario aware bike lane removals may not reduce congestion, could make people less safe

March 12 2025, CBC

Ontario's premier and transportation minister have said for months that removing bike lanes is a necessary measure to reduce traffic in the GTA. But hundreds of pages of internal ministry documents, reports and emails show the government is aware the move may not have a meaningful impact on congestion and could increase collisions for everyone who uses roads.

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IIHS names 48 new vehicles Top Safety Picks for 2025

March 13 2025, Driving.ca

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) says automakers have made big strides in front crash prevention over the past few years, with major improvements seen in automatic emergency braking (AEB) systems especially.

Indeed, according to a recent IIHS study, fully 22 of the last 30 vehicles it tested received a Good or Acceptable rating, which requires systems be able to prevent or “substantially mitigate” crashes at higher speeds. In contrast, says the institute, in April of last year, only three out of 10 small SUVs tested made the grade.

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Toronto doubling number of speed cameras on its streets

March 13 2025, CBC

Toronto is doubling the number of automated speed cameras on city streets.

The new cameras are being installed in community safety zones, with a focus on “locations that have really high numbers of speeders and crashes,” Barbara Gray, general manager of the city’s transportation division, said in an interview Thursday.

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Burnaby aims to educate young cyclists with new bike playground

March 14 2025, the Voice

Burnaby might one day be producing skilled young cyclists as the city looks at building a bike playground to teach road safety.

Coun. Alison Gu proposed the playground idea, with Burnaby council agreeing in January to study the proposal.

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19 of the 50 most dangerous intersections for pedestrians in B.C. are located in Surrey

March 15 2025, CBC

The most recent data from B.C.'s provincial insurer shows that of the 50 intersections in the province with the most crashes involving pedestrians, 19 are located in Surrey, B.C.

Nearly 80 per cent of collisions involving pedestrians happen at intersections, according to the province. CBC News looked at Insurance Corporation of B.C. (ICBC) data from 2019 to 2023, the latest on record.

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Small electric cars were said to be the future - but SUVs now rule the road

March 17 2025, Yahoo News

Across the globe more and more Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) are being spotted on - and off - the roads.

This is despite predictions from the United Nations of an inevitable pivot towards smaller and more environmentally friendly vehicles because of the urgency of the climate crisis and the rising cost of living.

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The rising tide of motor vehicle fatalities in Canada

March 17 2025, the Coast

Following three decades of improvement in road safety, Canada is now seeing a resurgence of increasing road fatalities. 2022 saw the country record 1,931 vehicle-related deaths, the highest since 2013 and a 6% increase from 2021. As a result, personal injury lawyers are also seeing an increase in cases.

This resurgence in fatal road traffic accidents has gained the attention of governmental policymakers and road safety campaigners. But what's behind the recent spike in deaths, and how can they be combatted?

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It's not time to switch to summer tires yet in B.C.: Road safety campaign

March 19 2025, Vernon Morning Star

With the first day of spring on Thursday (March 20), drivers in B.C. may be thinking of switching out their winter tires, but a road safety campaign says it's not yet the time.

Road Safety At Work advises against the swap so early in the season - and some highways in B.C. even require drivers to keep their winters on until the end of April.

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Federal government invests over \$7.9 million for safer and more accessible streets in Montreal

March 20 2025, canada.ca

Montreal residents will benefit from expanded access to active transportation options thanks to a federal investment of more than \$7.9 million, which will help fund four projects.

With an investment of nearly \$3.3 million, the redevelopment of Lapierre and Matte streets, aimed at improving user safety and comfort, will be completed in the coming months.

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Are amber rear turn signals safer than red ones?

March 23 2025, The Globe and Mail

For the third consecutive year, distracted driving has been identified as the top risk factor for Canadian drivers, according to Desjardins Insurance's annual road safety survey.

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Photo radar to be restricted to School, Playground, and Construction Zones as Alberta ends photo radar era

March 28 2025, todayville.com

Alberta's government is fulfilling its promise to end Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) in select locations while enhancing safety with a new Traffic Safety Fund.

For years, Alberta has had the most ATE sites of any jurisdiction in Canada with many serving as a "cash cow," generating millions of dollars in revenue with no clear evidence they were improving traffic safety.

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The hidden dangers of drowsy driving: Warning signs and how to prevent it

March 28 2025, durhampost.ca

Most people wouldn't dream of getting behind the wheel after drinking, yet they have no problem driving while exhausted.

What people don't realize is that drowsy driving can be just as dangerous as drunk driving. Fatigue slows reaction times, impairs judgment, and can even cause drivers to nod off for a few seconds.

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2025

Ontario Traffic Council Events

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MTO 2025 Road Safety Events Calendar

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

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Are you ready to put your safe driving skills to the test? Take the Safe Roads Challenge

March 15, 2025 - September 14, 2025

[Learn more](#)

2025 Road Safety Campaigns – Spring Update

March 20, 2025 - June 30, 2025

[Learn more](#)

10th Student Safety Technology Design Competition

May 12, 2026 - May 15, 2026

[Learn more](#)

CARSP/ICTCT 2025 Conference

May 20-23, 2025

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