



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period May 1-31, 2025

2024 was Ontario's deadliest year for motorcyclists in two decades

May 1 2025, SooToday.com

With Motorcycle Safety Awareness Week getting underway, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is urging motorcyclists and drivers to avoid behaviours and actions that caused or contributed to last year's historic **57** motorcyclist deaths on OPP-patrolled roads.

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A pilot project is bringing self-driving robots to Toronto – sparking concerns from one city councillor

May 4 2025, CBC

Toronto's crowded streets will soon see another type of vehicle: self-driving delivery robots – a decision the city had no approval over and a major concern for one councillor whose downtown ward will be affected.

The pilot project, run by Magna International Inc., will see up to 20 self-driving vehicles, under the observation of humans in cars, fan out across several neighbourhoods on streets where speed limits are 40 kilometers per hour or lower.

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Off ramp: Why it's important to plan for retirement from driving

May 5 2025, Times Colonist

Many seniors who stop driving do so because their licences are suddenly revoked. Experts say it's better to plan ahead for phasing driving out of your life.

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70% of Drivers Unsure of BC's Slow Down, Move Over Law - BCAA Survey

May 6 2025, Newswire.ca

A recent BCAA survey revealed that 70% of BC drivers admitted to having little to no knowledge of BC's Slow Down, Move Over Law and 81% observed poor driving behaviour including failing to slow down and move over when needed.

BC's Slow Down, Move Over law requires drivers to slow down and move over for any vehicle stopped on the roadside displaying flashing red, blue, or yellow lights.

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McMaster EcoCAR Team enhances comfort and safety for older drivers at CarFit event

May 7 2025, mcmaster.ca

While power, safety features, advancements in electrification and sleek design often take centre stage in the marketing of new vehicles, a key focus that takes a back seat is whether vehicles are designed to meet the needs of aging drivers. This focus is where the CarFit program fills a critical gap.

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Is this intersection safe? New tool measures hazard level of most Montreal intersections

May 7 2025, CBC

Researchers at Polytechnique Montréal have developed a tool that combines existing data on several variables to determine hazard levels for intersections, hoping the city will use the tool to improve problematic areas.

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Islanders asked to help shape safer roads on P.E.I. for the next decade

May 8 2025, CBC

The provincial government is looking to launch a new 10-year strategy on road safety, but it's asking Islanders to weigh in first.

The province is developing a plan called Pathways to Highway Safety, aimed at reducing traffic collisions, improving infrastructure and making roads safer for Islanders.

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City asks for urgent \$1M as Calgary pedestrian deaths increased 225% last year

May 8 2025, CBC

Last year marked an 11-year high for fatal collisions in Calgary – including a 225 per cent increase in pedestrian deaths – according to an annual city report presented to council's community development committee on Thursday.

According to the safer mobility plan report, 29 people died in collisions in 2024. A previous Calgary Police Service report said that's the highest number since 2013. Of those deaths, 13 were pedestrians.

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Kingston Police Traffic Safety Unit incorporates drone technology to address distracted driving

May 9 2025, Kingston Police

The Kingston Police Traffic Safety Unit is finding additional uses for its collision reconstruction drone to combat distracted driving and make local roadways safer.

On Wednesday, May 7th the Traffic Safety Unit, along with assistance from a traffic-oriented Uniform Patrol officer, conducted cell phone blitzes at three different locations within the city: Division St at John Counter Blvd, Sir John A. Macdonald Blvd at John Counter Blvd, and Highway 15 at Gore Rd.

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Why self-driving technology is already outperforming the average driver

May 13 2025, The Globe and Mail

In a split-second manoeuvre, a driverless vehicle swerves around a pedestrian who fell off their scooter and into its path. An Instagram post from December shows the vehicle narrowly avoiding the person - a real-world demonstration of how much self-driving technology has improved in a short time.

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Poor decisions cause 'vast majority' of fatal collisions: OPP

May 13 2025, SooToday.com

Ahead of national Canada Road Safety Week, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are reporting that the vast majority of the 382 road users who died on OPP-patrolled roads in 2024 had their lives cut short because of poor and careless decisions and actions behind the wheel and in passenger seats.

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Around 20% of drivers distracted in local school zones: study

May 16 2025, CBC

When it comes to distracted driving, it's no longer just cell phones and food tearing motorists' eyes off the road. Now, the hazard could be coming from the car itself.

That's according to researchers at the University of Windsor, who say they found that nearly 20 per cent – or one in five – of local drivers were distracted while travelling through local school zones.

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Impairing substances detected in 55% of drivers involved in an accident

May 16 2025, Insurance Portal

Impaired driving is a substantial road safety concern in Canada,” observe about twenty Canadian researchers who studied the extent of psychoactive substance use among injured drivers across the country.

According to their findings, in a sample of 8,328 injured drivers who were treated in a Canadian trauma centre after an accident, nearly 55% tested positive for a harmful substance.

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Calgary police see significant drop in speeding tickets after photo radar ban

May 23 2025, Global News

Speeding enforcement in Calgary has seen a significant decline compared with the same time period last year, according to new data from the Calgary Police Service, now that there are restrictions on the use of photo radar.

The data shows between January and the end of April, the service issued 25,761 fewer tickets than during the same time period last year, when 98,523 speeding tickets were issued.

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Ontario can't lead on road safety without cycling infrastructure

May 23 2025, link2build.ca

The Ontario government says it is a “world-class leader in road safety” and will continue to support municipalities in their efforts to make roads safe. It funds a program to address aggressive driving, pedestrian safety and cycling safety.

Thirteen Ontario municipalities, including Toronto, have adopted a strategy called Vision Zero, which helped Sweden cut its traffic deaths in half over two decades by increasing safe, healthy, accessible and affordable mobility options for all road users.

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Price Hike: ADAS, speeding, costly verdicts buoy premiums prices

May 27 2025, Collision Repair Magazine

Increasing repair costs aren't the only thing pushing auto insurance rates up across North America, a new report has found.

In its 2025 Driver Risk Report, SambaSafety, a risk management software provider, concluded auto insurance premiums, which are rising at about 11.1 percent year-over year, are being forced up by the increasing expense of repairing vehicles as well as by riskier driving habits and costly legal verdicts.

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Why Toronto e-bike riders dodging rules risk more crashes and ER visits

May 29 2025, City News Toronto

E-bikes are becoming increasingly common on Toronto streets, offering convenient transportation. However, some riders may attempt to bypass regulations to travel faster. Such actions not only raise safety concerns but can also result in sudden accidents and, potentially, a visit to the emergency room.

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Traffic sucks. Can technology from Miovision get us unstuck?

May 30 2025, The Globe and Mail

Congestions costs us billions in lost productivity, spews carbon and drives up anxiety. But this Kitchener, Ont., company uses algorithms to translate traffic data into strategies to keep cars moving.

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New Driving Rules & Federal Laws Coming to Canada in June 2025

May 31 2025, MPZ Magazine

June 2025 brings several major changes for Canadians, including updated driving regulations and the implementation of new federal laws aimed at protecting both workers and consumers.

From digital driver's licenses to tougher distracted driving penalties, and from stronger labour protections to truth in green marketing, here's what's changing in Canada starting next month—and how it could impact you.

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2025

Ontario Traffic Council Events

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28th International Technical Conference on ESV

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