



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period January 1-31, 2026

Highway safety changes now in effect across Manitoba

January 2, 2026, Portage Online

New road safety rules aimed at protecting highway workers and travellers across Manitoba officially came into effect on January 1.

The changes, introduced through the Highway Traffic Amendment Act, are designed to reduce collisions and improve safety for snowplows, cyclists, and roadside workers. Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Lisa Naylor says the legislation provides clearer expectations for drivers while creating safer working conditions for those on Manitoba's highways.

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Why does it seem as if some people forget how to drive when it starts snowing?

January 5, 2026, The Globe and Mail

Most drivers don't forget how to drive in winter - but too many choose to drive as if it's not winter at all, driving experts said.

"People underestimate how the roads have changed because of the weather," said Sean Shapiro, a road safety consultant. They assume the road is the same as it was a month ago or even a day ago. If it's colder than it was yesterday, your tires respond differently.

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Toronto researchers explore whether fully automated vehicles could reduce traffic injuries

January 7, 2026, University of Toronto

Driverless vehicles haven't yet taken to Canadian roads, but they've already rolled out in some other countries. Proponents say the technology will mean fewer accidents, while others have raised concerns about safety, liability and public acceptance, among other issues.

A new study by researchers at the University of Toronto provides data on the potential of automated vehicles to improve road safety in various adoption scenarios.

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Ontario impaired driving laws 2026: New penalties and OPP RIDE results

January 8, 2026, durhamregion.com

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) said hundreds of alleged impaired drivers were taken off the road over the holidays ahead of harsher penalties taking effect in 2026.

During the OPP's annual Festive RIDE campaign from Nov. 20 to Jan. 1, officers laid 766 impaired driving charges, a slight increase from the 743 charges seen during the same period in 2024.

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2025 saw the fewest road traffic deaths in Toronto since Vision Zero plan launched 10 years ago

January 12, 2026, CTV News

The number of people killed in collisions on Toronto's roads in 2015 is the lowest it has been in a decade, according to new data from the city's Vision Zero plan.

Last year, there were 39 traffic fatalities in Toronto. This is the lowest number recorded since the road safety strategy was launched in 2016, when 78 people were killed.

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This U of S lab got people high and put them in a driving simulator. The results aren't shocking

January 14, 2026, CBC

A University of Saskatchewan study aims to fill gaps in the nascent field of cannabis research and find new ways to test theories about how THC affects cognition.

The driving research and simulation laboratory at the U of S ran a study last year that had participants eat a gummy containing 10 milligrams of THC, the compound in cannabis that creates a high, before testing their cognition and motor skills in a driving simulator.

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Why do so many people still drink and drive? Lots of reasons, actually

January 17, 2026, sootoday.com

All month, police forces across Ontario have been releasing the results of their Festive RIDE programs.

The OPP alone arrested nearly 1,300 people for impaired driving during the month of December. Add in local police services throughout the province, and the number of charges is hundreds more.

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Risk of long-term disability after a traffic crash increased by past concussions

January 21, 2026, Sunnybrook

A new Sunnybrook-led study suggests individuals who have experienced a concussion are prone to long-term disability after a traffic crash, and should be warned about traffic safety, along with standard anti-concussion campaigns.

“For those who have experienced a concussion in the past, this is a reminder to avoid high-speed trips during late-night hours under bad-weather conditions,” says Dr. Donald Redelmeier, principal investigator of the study, senior scientist in the Tory Trauma Research Program at Sunnybrook Research Institute, and a senior core scientist at ICES.

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Canada's winter driving skills gap: What new drivers still struggle with

January 27, 2026, Driving.ca

As winter conditions grip Canada, a concerning reality emerges from driving schools across the country. Professional driving instructors consistently observe that new drivers lack essential winter driving skills, creating a dangerous gap between standard driver education and real-world winter demands.

With nearly 30 per cent of collisions in Canada occurring on wet, snowy or icy roads, this skills deficit poses serious safety risks for young drivers navigating their first Canadian winter.

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Canadians Say Impaired Driving Is a Serious Public Safety Issue and Want Governments to Act

January 28, 2026, The Globe and Mail

An overwhelming majority of Canadians say impaired driving is a serious public safety issue and support MADD Canada's policies for change, according to a new national survey, conducted by IPSOS for MADD Canada. Over 90% of Canadians agree impaired driving is a serious public safety issue, including nearly three-quarters (74%) who strongly agree. Less than half of Canadians think that governments are doing enough to address the issue.

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County to spend \$1.33 million on road safety initiatives over next two years

January 28, 2026, Guelph Today

The county has turned to physical road safety and speed management measures in the absence of automated speed enforcement (ASE) cameras.

According to a new report, approximately \$1.33 million will be spent to construct additional road safety and speed management measures like pedestrian crossovers, speed radar signs, centre line bollards and centre line medians at former ASE camera locations across the county between 2026 and 2027.

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2026

Ontario Traffic Council Events

[Learn more](#)

January 1, 2026 - March 31, 2026

[2025/26 Road Safety Initiatives - Winter Update](#)

January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026

[2026 Road Safety Events Calendar](#)

February 20, 2026 - May 22, 2026

[Concussion Research Rounds – Winter/Spring 2026](#)

March 26, 2026

[Call for Presenters: Transport Canada's Vehicle Cyber Security Conference](#)

March 27, 2026

[2026 Call for Proposals Now Open: Road Safety Research Partnership Program \(RSRPP\)](#)

May 12, 2026 - May 15, 2026

[10th Student Safety Technology Design Competition](#)

May 12, 2026 - May 15, 2026

[International Technical Conference On the Enhanced Safety of Vehicles](#)

August 11, 2026 - August 13, 2026

[11th International Conference on Managing Fatigue](#)

September 1, 2026

[Call for Presenters - Canadian Traffic Safety Conference \(Regina, September 2026\)](#)