

November 13, 2009

Day of Remembrance for road victims recognized on November 18

Edmonton...

In Canada, November 18 has been designated as a National Day of Remembrance for road crash victims.

On this day, Canadians are asked to remember those killed or seriously injured on Canadian roads, often in avoidable collisions, and those left to deal with the sudden and unexpected loss of people they love.

- Nearly 3,000 Canadians are killed each year on Canada's 900,000 kilometres of roads and highways. This translates to eight avoidable deaths every single day. That's one death every three hours.
- Additionally, 200,000 people are injured every year on Canadian roads (many seriously) and the impact of the carnage is widespread. These tragedies touch families, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for years - and on a daily basis.
- Almost all of these injuries and deaths are avoidable. Precautions to reduce the number of deaths and injuries from traffic collisions include driving at a speed appropriate for road conditions, wearing seat belts, using properly fitted child restraints, and avoiding driving when impaired or fatigued.

Alberta has a comprehensive [Traffic Safety Plan](#) that focuses on education, enforcement, communications, engineering, community engagement and legislation to help make our roads safer. Some recent examples include the implementation of intersection safety devices to reduce collisions at intersections and the expansion of the Alberta Administrative Licence Suspension (AALS) program to include drug-impaired driving-related offences.

From 2007 to 2008, traffic fatalities and injuries dropped 10 per cent, indicating this coordinated approach is helping to save lives and reduce injuries. Even though the number of deaths on our roads is going down, there is still a great deal of work to do.

- Don't drive while impaired by alcohol, drugs or fatigue.
- Slow down—speeding saves little time and could cost you your life.
- Always wear your seat belt, and ensure others in your vehicle do as well.
- Be careful at intersections—don't run red lights or stop signs.

On November 18, take a moment to remember those lost or injured in traffic collisions and encourage everyone you know to make a commitment to becoming a safer driver.

For more information, go to www.rememberroadcrashvictims.ca

To find out about traffic safety in your community, contact your regional traffic safety coordinator. To find your local coordinator, visit www.saferoads.com and click on Contact Us, then the [Regional Traffic Safety Coordinator](#) on the left-hand side.

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