

March 26, 2010

## **More Albertans are wearing their seatbelts**

### ***Enforcement and education are helping to reduce injuries and save lives***

*Edmonton...* The province's coordinated strategy of public education campaigns and enforcement is having a positive impact on drivers. The results of a provincial seatbelt [survey](#) conducted in the fall of 2009 show combined urban and rural seatbelt wearing rates are now over 92 per cent - an increase of four per cent since 2007.

These results are encouraging but there is still room for improvement. In Alberta over the last five years, 550 people who were killed and 5319 injured were not using occupant restraints at the time of the collision. Many of these fatalities and injuries could have been avoided if drivers and passengers had chosen to buckle up. Occupant restraints are simply one of the most effective devices to reduce injuries and save lives.

Parents and guardians also have a responsibility to ensure that children are safe. Currently, child safety seats are required by law for children less than six years of age whose weight does not exceed 18 kilograms (40 pounds).

To support the Alberta Occupant Restraint Program's education campaign and the Traffic Safety Plan Calendar for the month of March, law enforcement agencies throughout the province issued 454 violation charges for seatbelt infractions and 69 charges for child safety seats during a two-day joint forces enforcement blitz that took place March 24 and 25. The goal of the blitz was to remind drivers that seatbelts save lives.

This province-wide effort included Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat Police Services; RCMP; Commercial Vehicle Enforcement; and the Alberta Sheriff Highway Patrol. More than 1019 additional tickets were issued for various other traffic safety violations.

For more information about occupant restraints, visit the Alberta Occupant Restraint Program (AORP) website at <http://www.albertaseatbelts.ca/> &nbsp;or visit [www.saferoads.com](http://www.saferoads.com).

This initiative is part of Alberta's Traffic Safety Plan that focuses on education, enforcement, communications, engineering, community engagement and legislation to help make our roads safer. For more information on the plan or to view the [Alberta Seatbelt Use 2004-2009](#) statistics, go to [www.transportation.alberta.ca](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca)

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