

Signs of Progress on Traffic Fatalities

Timeline

There have been a number of initiatives in recent years aimed at improving traffic safety in Saskatchewan. Here are some highlights:

<p>2012 – A tragic year</p>	<p>183 people are killed in traffic collisions in Saskatchewan (a significant increase over recent years) prompting the formation of a Special Committee on Traffic Safety.</p>
<p>2013 – Roadmap to a safer future</p>	<p>Recommendations from the Special Committee on Traffic Safety include tougher penalties for impaired driving, photo speed enforcement, expanding and enhancing traffic enforcement, and introducing tough new measures to deal with distracted driving and speeding.</p>
<p>2014 – Tougher laws, dedicated enforcement</p>	<p>Province announces the introduction of two new units, with a total of 60 police officers dedicated to traffic safety enforcement</p> <p>New legislation takes effect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 60-day driver's licence suspensions and 3-day vehicle seizures for new drivers caught driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (first offence) ▪ Mandatory user-pay installation of an ignition interlock device for convicted impaired drivers ▪ 7-day vehicle seizures for drivers caught using their cellphone while driving for the second time within one year ▪ Harsher penalties for speeders driving 35 km/h or more over the speed limit (compared to the previous 50 km/h) ▪ Mandatory booster seats for children under 7 ▪ Numerous stronger safety requirements for drivers in the Motorcycle Graduated Drivers Licensing program
<p>2015 – Heads up and *click* slow down</p>	<p>SGI's "Heads Up" awareness campaign launches, asking cellphone-using drivers, "Are you willing to die to get the last word?"</p> <p>Photo speed enforcement piloted in high-speed locations and in select school zones in and around Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and Regina.</p>
<p>2016 – Consequences and rewards</p>	<p>Awareness campaign "People Shouldn't Disappear" v1 launched, showing the void left behind when someone is killed by impaired driving. (Campaign uses stock photographs.)</p> <p>Changes to Safe Driver Recognition program, with bigger discounts for safe drivers and tougher penalties for dangerous driving behaviours.</p> <p>Installation of 32 new SGI-funded automated licence plate readers begins on police cars throughout Saskatchewan, to help catch suspended drivers. There are now 60 being used by police, and more on the way.</p>

2017 – A busy year**January – New laws take effect, strengthening the tough measures introduced in 2014:**

Three-day vehicle seizures for experienced drivers who are charged for the first time with having a blood alcohol content (BAC) over .04.

Zero tolerance age for drugs and alcohol increased to drivers age 21 and under (previously it was 19).

Strengthened ignition interlock laws by extending mandatory ignition interlock to drivers who register a BAC over .16 or refuse to provide a breath sample (1st offence - two years; 2nd offence - five years; 3rd and subsequent offence - 10 years).

Tougher cellphone legislation – law now states drivers can't "hold, view, manipulate or use" a cellphone while driving.

April – “What are you folks up to this evening?”

Police across Saskatchewan step up frequency of high-visibility checkstops on weekends, funded by SGI.

May – The human cost of impaired driving

SGI launches a new version of the “People Shouldn't Disappear” awareness campaign, this time featuring pictures and stories of 12 real Saskatchewan people killed by impaired drivers. Public response to the heartbreaking, award-winning campaign is unprecedented.

July – Holding them accountable

SGI announces it is suing two liquor establishments who served an impaired driver on the night she killed a family of four. SGI also sues the driver.

August – Be a friend for life

SGI awareness campaign encourages people to “Be A Good Wingman” and not let impaired friends drive.

November – More changes on the way

With legalized marijuana on the horizon in 2018, government takes a zero tolerance stance on drug impaired driving, introducing new legislation to implement the same tough consequences for alcohol-impaired driving.

Government also introduced legislation to bring in stronger penalties for impaired drivers who transport children – longer suspensions and vehicle seizures.

February 8, 2018

Government announces that 2017 saw a historically low number of people killed vehicle collisions in Saskatchewan. (102 deaths, the lowest in more than six decades.)
