



Ontario introducing \$50,000 fines for careless driving cause death

Harsher penalties aimed at protecting pedestrians and cyclists

September 20, 2017 (Toronto, Ontario) – The Share the Road Cycling Coalition (Share the Road) was in Toronto this morning as the Province introduced plans for tougher legislation around careless and distracted driving.

In a press conference, Minister Del Duca and Minister McMahon shared plans to add a charge of careless driving cause death or bodily harm to the Highway Traffic Act. This would see fines of up to \$50,000, up to two years in jail and a license suspension of up to five years imposed on drivers. Currently, the Highway Traffic Act includes fines of up to \$2,000, jail time of up to six months and a loss of license for two years.

"Share the Road supports this proposed tougher legislation because it recognizes that careless driving has serious and life-changing consequences for Ontarians," says Jamie Stuckless, Executive Director of Share the Road. "We were at Queen's Park in 2016 when this legislation was proposed in Private Members Bill 213, and we are encouraged to see the province's continued commitment to moving forward with this important legislation."

The proposed measures would also see tougher penalties for distracted driving, including higher fines, more demerit points and license suspensions of up to 30 days on the third conviction, as well as increased penalties for drivers who fail to yield for pedestrians at crosswalks, crossovers and school crossings.

"In and of itself, this legislation is a step forward for road safety, says Stuckless. "And in the broader context of *CycleON: Ontario's Cycling Strategy*, and this governments' ongoing commitment to road safety, this is a meaningful piece of legislation for cycling and for the safety of all road users. With this announcement, the government is actively recognizing the serious consequences of careless and distracted driving and we look forward to working with the province to ensure that these new penalties can be effectively enforced."

The province intends to introduce this legislation later this Fall, and it would likely come into full effect within two years.

About the Share the Road Cycling Coalition

Share the Road is a provincial non-profit organization working to build a bicycle friendly Ontario. We work in partnership with municipal, provincial and federal governments, the business community, road safety organizations and other non-profits to enhance access for bicyclists on roads and trails, improve safety for all bicyclists and Educate citizens on the value and important of safe bicycling for healthy lifestyles and healthy communities.

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