**FROM:** Corporate Communications **DATE:** November 16, 2023

Highway Safety Division

**STUMPED FOR GIFT IDEAS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?**

*OPP and Partners Committed to Safe Roads During Festive RIDE Campaign*

**(ORILLIA, ON)** – If you can only give one gift over the holidays, why not make a commitment to never drive while impaired? It’s a commitment every driver can conveniently make from the comfort of their own driver’s seat, at any time of day, on any road.

This formed part of the message delivered by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), who were joined by the Minister of Transportation, York Regional Police, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and many other road/public safety partners to kick off the provincial Festive RIDE campaign.

Beginning this week and right through the holidays, the OPP and its valued police partners will make full use of their expertise and sophisticated tools for detecting and investigating alcohol and drug impairment in drivers.

“No family should lose a loved one in a collision that involves alcohol and/or drugs, especially during the holidays. Driving sober and drug free is critical to preventing road fatalities and injuries. You can help make roads even safer by calling 9-1-1 if you see a suspected impaired driver. Let’s work together to make this the safest holiday season yet.”

– Thomas CARRIQUE, Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner

“The holiday season is here, and I encourage all Ontarians to engage with their loved ones about the dangers of drinking or using drugs and driving a vehicle. Driving impaired is dangerous, illegal, and can have fatal consequences. During the holidays this year, everyone should have a plan to get home safely, and not be afraid to speak up and ensure others do the same.”

– Michael KERZNER, Solicitor General

“Ontario has among the safest roads in North America, and we are committed to making them even safer. Whether it’s drugs or alcohol, there is no place for impaired driving in Ontario. This holiday season, do your part to help keep our roads safe. Remember to plan ahead – use public transit, take a taxi or ride-share service, or have a designated driver to get you, your family and other drivers on the road home safely.”

– Prabmeet SARKARIA, Minister of Transportation

“Police services across our province are united in their determination to keep our roads and highways safe throughout the year, including during special times of the year like the holiday season. Our message is simple: we want everyone to enjoy the season safely. Impaired driving is never okay.”

– Jim MACSWEEN, OACP President and Chief of York Regional Police

The Festive RIDE campaign runs from November 16, 2023 to January 1, 2024.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

* Mandatory Alcohol Screening allows police to demand a roadside breath test from any lawfully stopped driver, even if there is no evidence or suspicion that the driver is impaired by alcohol.
* Citizens have placed almost **17,000** calls to the OPP this year to report suspected impaired drivers.
* Under Ontario’s Zero Tolerance law, it is illegal for young, novice and commercial drivers to have any amount of alcohol or drugs in their system.
* Drug Recognition Evaluations (DRE) and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) remain effective police resources for detecting drug-impaired drivers.

**LEARN MORE**

* [Impaired Driving](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ontario.ca%2Fpage%2Fimpaired-driving&data=05%7C01%7CTerri.McCormack%40opp.ca%7C85f64ae7438e4746ad3a08dbdfc41403%7C73ce4d7298a24f13b5b06c3d3ff1fcd9%7C0%7C0%7C638349805468239024%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eZppgh7wFXbopI4UpMqxtyWzpqKGASTy139Ox5Pi3GQ%3D&reserved=0)
* [Warn Range Suspensions](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ontario.ca%2Fdocument%2Fofficial-mto-drivers-handbook%2Fother-ways-lose-your-licence%23section-8&data=05%7C01%7CTerri.McCormack%40opp.ca%7C85f64ae7438e4746ad3a08dbdfc41403%7C73ce4d7298a24f13b5b06c3d3ff1fcd9%7C0%7C0%7C638349805468239024%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=IGjhDuXZmvWkO7HDMmRKkQsqzxNHnGslBkX7srtLxwA%3D&reserved=0)
* [Penalties for impaired driving](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ontario.ca%2Fpage%2Fimpaired-driving%23section-3&data=05%7C01%7CTerri.McCormack%40opp.ca%7C85f64ae7438e4746ad3a08dbdfc41403%7C73ce4d7298a24f13b5b06c3d3ff1fcd9%7C0%7C0%7C638349805468239024%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=zsmMEmQrlorHbMi93U%2BYm0kpS1kHSgfe2g9%2BGU9%2FDgU%3D&reserved=0)

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