

# *Taking action now to keep Quebecers safe...*

*Traffic accidents cause far too many human tragedies each year. The statistics show that 80% of traffic accidents are avoidable and can be attributed to human behaviour. To ensure the safety of you and your family, the government is implementing six priority actions.*



The Minister of Transport,  
**Julie Boulet**

## **Priority actions**

- 1.** Tougher action against speeding.
- 2.** Tougher action against drinking and driving.
- 3.** A pilot project for photographic radar and cameras at red lights at certain locations.
- 4.** Prohibition against using a cell phone (handset) while driving a moving vehicle.
- 5.** Introduction of a 105 km/h speed limiter for heavy trucks.
- 6.** Obligation for new drivers to take a driving course and introduction of new measures for gradual access to a driver's licence.

***These measures will come into force  
gradually in 2007-2008.***



***We are all responsible for our conduct on the road***

**Québec** 

# Taking action now to keep Quebecers safe...

TQSR* Recommendations	Current Situation		Priority Government Actions																													
<div>1.</div> <div><h3>Speeding</h3><p>Introduce tougher penalties for major speeding offences and repeat offences.</p></div>	<p>Speeding offences are penalized by a fine and demerit points, with a linear increase according to the seriousness of the speeding violation.</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">PROJECTED PENALTIES FOR SPEEDING OFFENCES</th></tr><tr><th>Speeding</th><th>Points</th><th>Fine</th></tr><tr><td>11 to 20 km/h</td><td>1</td><td>\$35 to \$55</td></tr><tr><td>21 to 30 km/h</td><td>2</td><td>\$75 to \$105</td></tr><tr><td>31 to 45 km/h</td><td>3</td><td>\$135 to \$195</td></tr><tr><td>46 to 60 km/h</td><td>5</td><td>\$240 to \$315</td></tr><tr><td>61 to 80 km/h</td><td>7</td><td>\$375 to \$495</td></tr><tr><td>81 to 100 km/h</td><td>9</td><td>\$495 to \$615</td></tr><tr><td>101 to 120 km/h</td><td>12</td><td>\$615 to \$735</td></tr><tr><td>121 km/h and up</td><td>15 and up</td><td>\$735 and up</td></tr></table>	PROJECTED PENALTIES FOR SPEEDING OFFENCES			Speeding	Points	Fine	11 to 20 km/h	1	\$35 to \$55	21 to 30 km/h	2	\$75 to \$105	31 to 45 km/h	3	\$135 to \$195	46 to 60 km/h	5	\$240 to \$315	61 to 80 km/h	7	\$375 to \$495	81 to 100 km/h	9	\$495 to \$615	101 to 120 km/h	12	\$615 to \$735	121 km/h and up	15 and up	\$735 and up	<div>1.</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduce the concept of major speeding offences:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- in 30 and 50 km/h zones, for exceeding the speed limit by 40 km/h;</li><li>- in 70 and 90 km/h zones, for exceeding the speed limit by 50 km/h;</li><li>- in a 100 km/h zone, for exceeding the speed limit by 60 km/h.</li></ul></li><li>• For these major speeding offences:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- double the amount of the fine and the number of demerit points;</li><li>- immediately suspend the driver's licence for 7 days and, in the case of a repeat offence, for 30 days.</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Example:</b> A driver travelling at 96 km/h in a 50 km/h would be charged \$480, double the current fine, and 10 demerit points, double the current number of points, will be recorded in his/her driving record. The driver's licence would also be suspended immediately for 7 days.</p>
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<div>2.</div> <div><h3>Alcohol</h3><p>Impose tougher penalties for impaired driving.</p></div>	<p>In the case of an offence for driving with a blood alcohol level over 0.08 or for refusing to take a breathalyzer test, the driver's licence will be suspended immediately for 30 days, in the case of a first offence, and 90 days, in the case of a second or subsequent offence in the past ten years.</p> <p>The penalties provided in the Highway Safety Code for a person guilty of an impaired driving offence under the Criminal Code are:</p> <p><b>First offence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Licence revoked for 1 year.</li><li>• Compulsory <i>Alcofrein</i> program.</li><li>• Summary evaluation to determine whether the driver's conduct is compatible with safe driving of a vehicle.</li><li>• If the summary evaluation is unfavourable:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- complete evaluation;</li><li>- compulsory ignition interlock for 1 year.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>More than 70 administrations have a system of photographic radar or red light cameras, including France, Australia, Belgium, the United Kingdom and certain states in the USA. In all cases, significant improvements in the road safety record have been observed.</p>	<p><b>Second offence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Licence revoked for 3 years.</li><li>• Complete evaluation.</li><li>• Compulsory ignition interlock for 2 years.</li></ul> <p><b>Third and subsequent offences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Licence revoked for 5 years.</li><li>• Complete evaluation.</li><li>• Compulsory ignition interlock for 3 years.</li></ul> <p>Increase the penalties related to the commission of an offence for driving with a blood alcohol level over 0.08 or for refusing to take a breathalyzer test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• increase immediate suspension of the licence from 30 to 90 days in the case of a first offence.</li><li>• for a repeat offence, the vehicle will be seized for 30 days.</li></ul> <p>Introduce special penalties for drivers intercepted with a blood alcohol level over 160 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• for a first offence, apply the penalties stipulated for repeat offenders;</li><li>• seizure of the vehicle for 30 days;</li><li>• for a first repeat offence, apply the penalties stipulated for a third offence;</li></ul> <p>for a second and subsequent repeat offence, make ignition interlock compulsory for life.</p> <p>Introduce a 24-hour suspension of the driver's licence for blood alcohol levels between 0.05 and 0.08, based on what is done in other Canadian administrations.</p> <p><b>Ignition interlock program:</b></p> <p>The ignition interlock program administered by the SAAQ will be accessible to individuals on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>Steps will be taken to make acquisition and installation of such a device possible without being subject to the SAAQ program.</p>																														
<div>3.</div> <div><h3>New technologies</h3><p>Implement pilot projects on photographic radar and red light cameras, accounting for the conditions to be developed in partnership to ensure that their implementation considers all of the issues and concerns raised by the TQSR members.</p></div>	<p>Implement pilot projects on photographic radar and red light cameras. For this purpose, mandate the Deputy Ministers of Transport and Public Security, in collaboration with their colleague from Justice, to create a working group immediately. This group will work in partnership to establish the conditions of implementation, which will account for all the issues and concerns raised by the TQSR members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The sites concerned will have advance warning signs. Two signs will be installed at the approaches to photographic radar installations and red light cameras to inform the drivers of their presence and avoid entrapment. The installation distances of these signs will be adapted to site characteristics and the posted speed limits. For example, on a road with a posted speed limit of 90 km/h on level ground, a first sign will be installed 1,000 m from the photographic radar installation or the camera, and a second sign 200 m away. The location of the photographic radar installations and red light cameras will be available on the Internet.</li><li>• A communication campaign will explain the issues related to the use of these technologies.</li></ul> <p>The working group will have to report to the Minister in autumn 2007.</p> <p><b>Number of sites:</b> 3 photographic radar sites and 2 intersections where cameras will be installed at red lights are projected in each of the three pilot regions. These 15 sites will be announced before the end of 2007.</p> <p><b>Duration:</b> the pilot projects will last 18 months and will be reviewed by the National Assembly after 12 months.</p>																															
<div>4.</div> <div><h3>Gradual access to driving</h3><p>Strengthen the rules for gradual access to driving by preserving the mobility of new drivers but impose tougher penalties on drivers at fault.</p></div>	<p>The current system involves two stages, holding of a learner's licence for 12 months (8 months if the learner has passed a driving course), and holding of a probationary licence for a maximum of 2 years for drivers under age 25.</p> <p>The holder of a learner's licence must be accompanied. In addition, the holder of the learner's licence or the probationary licence is subject to a zero alcohol rule and a limit of 4 demerit points. The licence is still suspended for 3 months when the person has reached 4 demerit points.</p>	<p>Strengthen the rules of gradual access to driving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• by lengthening the periods for retaking the theory exam and the road test (increased from 7 days and 21 days to 28 days);</li><li>• by extending the probationary permit to persons age 25 and over;</li><li>• by introducing the compulsory driving course, which will have to be reviewed substantially;</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• by imposing a learner's licence holding period of 12 months for everyone;</li><li>• by introducing an intermediate phase after the probationary permit for drivers under age 25 (8 demerit points up to age 23; 12 demerit points up to age 25);</li><li>• by introducing a notion of repeat offence for the 4 demerit points (suspension of 3, 6 and 12 months).</li></ul>																														
<div>5.</div> <div><h3>Cell phone use while driving</h3><p>Favour the introduction of new legislation to control the use of cell phones while driving.</p></div>	<p>In Canada, only the Province of Newfoundland-and-Labrador prohibits cell phones (handsets). Among all of the 50 administrations around the world which have</p> <p>legislated on cell phone use in a moving car, almost all have only prohibited handsets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prohibit use of a cell phone (handset) while driving a moving vehicle (3 demerit points and a fine of \$80 to \$100).</li><li>• Account for the concerns raised by the TQSR members.</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The accident report will be modified to allow collection of information on accidents in which a cell phone may be the cause.</li></ul>																														
<div>6.</div> <div><h3>Heavy vehicles</h3><p>(speed limiters)</p><p>Support the actions of the <i>Table de concertation gouvernement-industrie sur la sécurité des véhicules lourds</i>. Make speed limiters compulsory on all trucks, and adjustment of the maximum speed of these vehicles to 105 km/h.</p></div>	<p>The heavy vehicle transportation sector has taken matters in hand effectively, especially since 1998, and has already introduced several innovations. In 1998, Québec adopted legislation governing road transportation enterprises to monitor their conduct and penalize unsafe acts. Roadside inspections were increased and several regulations were strengthened (hazardous materials, number of driving hours, load securement, etc.).</p> <p>Since that date, a decrease in the number of deaths in accidents involving heavy vehicles has been observed, but they are still involved in about 20% of fatal accidents.</p> <p>Several interesting recommendations arise from the concerted industry-government action carried out over the past few years, particularly for the purpose of implementing driving monitoring mechanisms, as already exist for owners and operators, and an excellence recognition program for drivers and businesses. Other recommendations encourage various technological innovations, including speed limiters (following a proposal by the Canadian trucking industry, of which the <i>Association du camionnage du Québec</i> is part).</p>	<p>In accordance with the Government of Québec's 2006-2012 Action Plan on Climate Change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• table legislation in autumn 2007, which will make the activation of speed limiters compulsory on all heavy vehicles and the adjustment of the maximum speed of these vehicles to 105 km/h.</li></ul> <p>In addition to the appreciable road safety benefits, this measure will have environmental advantages.</p> <p>Concerning the application of this measure for intercity buses, discussions are continuing with the industry and with other provinces.</p>																														

\*Table québécoise de la sécurité routière

1.

**Alcohol**  
Impose tougher penalties for impaired driving.

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