

Special Committee on Traffic Safety  
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Ms. Kathy Burianyk:

I have a few suggestions on improving the safety on our roads and streets in Saskatchewan that I would like to present.

I believe that more knowledgeable drivers would decrease the incidence of traffic crashes and this can be accomplished through actions by SGI. First I suggest that we test all drivers every 5 years. There are changes to our traffic laws that escape the attention of drivers. With testing there is an opportunity to educate while at the same time determining any bad driving habits that drivers have picked up over the years. The testing procedure should include written and driving tests. In the instances where drivers fail to pass the test, an opportunity for retraining would be available before being retested. This testing plan might cause some public concern however this brings up my second suggestion.

This is an opportunity for SGI to bring forward an education plan. There have been many powerful and meaningful advertisements on television with Work Place Safety and SGIs own Ads as examples. Ads that demonize bad driving habits and showing how correct driving could reduce crashes would be more acceptable by the driving public rather than an approach where big brother enforcing driving infractions would. Through the Ads, drivers would be made aware that they have adopted poor habits since getting their license and with a concern of losing their license it will cause them to focus on following the rules of the road.

Anyone driving into our neighbouring provinces is immediately aware of the slower drivers there and through education and some increased focus on highway traffic rules here we could adapt to our neighbours driving habits. Driving within the posted highway speeds has been a long forgotten idea and for the most part drivers have gotten away with. When people are forced to slow down due to increase traffic, the public demands the twinning of highways. This is an unnecessary and costly endeavor and takes away limited resources to repair other roads. By learning the traffic laws, and showing a willingness to follow them, I believe the public will see safety on our roads improve.

In summing up, driver training, testing, education and enforcement of traffic laws will improve safety on our roads while allowing resources to be better allocated to repair and maintain our roads in Saskatchewan.

Yours truly;  
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