

## **Driver Fatigue: Highway Safety Roundtable submission to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan Special Committee on Traffic Safety**

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Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan  
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The Special Committee on Traffic Safety has heard from many people and organizations in Saskatchewan and from across the country. The Roundtable reviewed the seventy-six submissions available online as of May 28, 2013. The Roundtable applauds the excellent work done.

The Highway Safety Roundtable, an informal group composed of a number of national associations including the Brewers Association of Canada and Railway Association of Canada, is dedicated to raising awareness of the danger of driver fatigue.

While fatigue is generally recognized as a factor in \*20% of collisions it receives scant mention in the road safety "conversation".

**Our recommendation is very simple - allocate more resources to fund more fatigue impairment specific public education.**

We make this recommendation because there are no effective legal disincentives to driving while tired. Other than rumble strips, education is the main avenue to prevent injuries and deaths caused by drowsy drivers.

And, since fatigue is an under-reported issue, any public education resources earmarked for this message would probably have greater impact.

The Highway Safety Roundtable is appending three background documents to this submission:

1. Center for Disease Control: 4.2% asleep while driving in the previous month: January 4, 2013  
Among 147,076 respondents, 4.2% (unadjusted prevalence = 4.1%) reported having fallen asleep while driving during the previous 30 days (Table 1). Men were more likely to report drowsy driving than women (5.3% versus 3.2%). Drowsy driving prevalence decreased with age, from >4.9% among adults aged 18–44 years to 1.7% among those aged ≥65 years.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6151.pdf>

2. Transport Canada: Human Factors Report, May 2011

The Highway Safety Roundtable participated in the process which led to the 281-page report. The first quarter of this authoritative study is dedicated to the subject of fatigue and commercial vehicle operators. The Human Factors Report includes a review of the literature, an extensive

bibliography and a series of important recommendations to address the problems of driver fatigue.

[http://www.ccmta.ca/english/pdf/human-factors\\_report\\_May\\_2011.pdf](http://www.ccmta.ca/english/pdf/human-factors_report_May_2011.pdf)

3. Highway Safety Roundtable: Working Together to Understand Driver Fatigue: Report on Symposium Proceedings: February 2008

This Highway Safety Roundtable report includes the perspectives of top Canadian researchers, a bibliography and statistical analysis fatigue-caused collisions based on the operational definition of fatigue.

[http://www.ihc.ca/en/Car\\_Insurance/documents/driver\\_fatigue/Understanding\\_Driver\\_Fatigue\\_HSR-Feb2008.pdf](http://www.ihc.ca/en/Car_Insurance/documents/driver_fatigue/Understanding_Driver_Fatigue_HSR-Feb2008.pdf)

The Roundtable thanks the committee for the opportunity to express our views and for the important the work the committee and the province is doing.

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\* TSC 2-27(7) SGI - 2011 TIRF: Distracted Driving: So What's the Big Picture? By Robyn Robertson, President and CEO, Traffic Injury Research Foundation, Page 6 "Fatigued driving is estimated to be a factor in approximately 20% of crashes in Canada"

cc

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Ed Gregory, Director of Communications, Brewers Association of Canada