

Mr. Darryl Hickie, MLA  
(Committee to review Sask. Road safety)

15C 6-27  
March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Estevan, Sask.

My name is Lauralie Ireland, I am a wife, mother, grandmother and a member of the "Time to Twin" committee, (to twin highway 6 and 39 from Regina to North Portal.).

Today, I am writing as a mother and grandmother. Please look at the enclosed picture- this is my daughter, Erin, son-in-law, Trevor and our 2 precious grandsons, Carson, 4 years and Rylan, 2 years. On Saturday morning, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, they were seconds away from being in what could have been a potentially fatal collision.

They were on their way to Regina for a fun weekend with friends. There was fog, the roads were good and just at Midale, a ¾ ton black truck pulled out and passed a semi, the truck was in their lane and my son-in-law was forced to take the ditch to avoid a head-on collision. Their mid-size car against a ¾ ton truck and semi (a real nightmare). Thankfully my family were all safe. How a few seconds could have changed our lives forever.

The driver of the truck did not stop, neither did the semi driver. Why was he passing in the fog?

I am quite aware that accidents happen on all highways, but it feels like in this part of the province, we are trapped. No matter what direction, the highways are extremely dangerous with high traffic volume and large vehicles.

The major problem lies with the aggression, stupidity and carelessness of the drivers (as shown with this incident). I cannot figure out what is so important that they will KILL to get to their destination.

Our mounties are stretched so thin and have to cover such large areas, but an added benefit would be more patrols on the highways. If monitored the majority of these drivers are probably over .08%, high on street drugs, prescription drugs, have no valid driver's license or are too short on sleep. They will continue to be hazards on the highways causing injuries or needless deaths.

The only solution I feel is the twinning of these highways #39 and #6, which will decrease the deaths and near death experiences of head-on collisions. It had been recommended by the previous highway minister, Mr. Jim Reiter, of passing lanes. Passing lanes are for driver's that would use them properly, are courteous and would let vehicles merge. I feel passing lanes would be a bandaied solution to a problem that is getting larger everyday.

With our already booming oil activity and the oil and grain hub being built in Northgate, how many more vehicles will be added to our already overstressed, poor quality highways and roads? I am aware that with prosperity comes change, but so should safety- we deserve safety.

. I am near 60 years old and have always been a confident driver, but I am absolutely terrified if I have to drive on any of these highways out of Estevan. And as living in rural Saskatchewan, doctor's appointments, airport travel and other commitments require us to have to travel to Regina, so with a prayer, clenched fists on the steering wheel, I go onto the "highway of hell." I cringe everytime a family member or friend ventures out- waiting for their call that their arrival was uneventful.

I experienced many emotions that day- anger at the careless driver, that could have taken my family and anger at the politicians who seem to ignore our concerns with safe highways. And amid all the anger, extreme thankfulness to God for watching over my family .

My daughter has one request- she would like the driver of the truck to see her 2 little sons- innocent lives that could have been taken. I will never forget that day- so thankful that the outcome was positive.

Sincerely,  
Lauralie Ireland  
1916 Dyer Road  
Estevan, Sask. S4A 1Z5  
e-mail: kireland@sasktel.net

Cc: Hon. Don Mc Morris, Minister of Highways and Infrastructure  
Hon. Dustin Duncan, Minister of Health  
Mrs. Doreen Eagles, MLA Estevan  
Ms. Danielle Chartier, MLA (Committee to review Saskatchewan road safety)