

# MANITOBA ADDICTIONS AWARENESS WEEK



## MADD Canada - Fast Facts Drinking and Driving

Created 1999

### What is MADD Canada?

MADD Canada is a national network of concerned citizens committed to stopping the crime of impaired driving and supporting the victims of this violent crime. MADD Canada is working to heighten awareness about the dangers of impaired driving, offer services to victims, and advocate for legislative changes.

### Is driving impaired a big problem in Canada?

DEFINITELY. Impaired driving continues to be a huge problem in Canada. In fact, it is the single largest criminal cause of death in our country. To put it in perspective: In 1994, there were 700 homicides in Canada. By contrast, there are approximately 1,500 fatalities resulting from impaired driving each year. The death rate from impaired driving is two to three times the national murder rate. It is a crime of epidemic proportions.



### Is impaired driving a crime?

YES. And if you have any doubts about the seriousness of this criminal act, think about this: a first-time impaired offence is punishable in Canada by up to five years in prison. If the impaired driver is found guilty of causing bodily harm or death, they can be punished by sentences of ten or more years behind bars. But for every impaired driver who is arrested and charged, there are countless more who get away with their crime.

### What is MADD Canada doing about drinking and driving?

MADD Canada is working to prevent impaired driving and help victims through:

- **Legislative Initiatives.** Tougher laws do discourage those who might drink and drive - and fewer impaired drivers on the road translate to fewer crashes and more saved lives.
- **Teenage Outreach/Educational Programs.** Young people are still involved in a tragically high number of impaired driving crashes. MADD Canada is working to reduce this toll by educating our youth and spreading the message about the dangers of impaired driving through our "Close to Home" program.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns.** Many people do not understand how dangerous it is to drink and drive. They also may not realize how much they can do to help eliminate the problem. We're helping more people understand that even one drink can impair a person's ability to drive safely.
- **Victim Assistance Programs.** MADD Canada offers support to victims and their families. We also help victims to understand how the justice system works and what their rights are.

### What specific legislation does MADD Canada support that would help eliminate the impaired driving problem?

• **Administrative Licence Suspension (ALS)** This administrative measure under the highway traffic act gives police officers the authority to suspend an impaired driver's licence at roadside. In Manitoba drivers with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .05 or over or refusing to provide a sample will receive an immediate 24-hour licence suspension and a \$40 reinstatement fee. Drivers with a BAC over .08 or who refuse to provide a sample will receive an automatic three-month roadside administrative driver's licence suspension. The administrative suspension is in addition to Criminal Code charges related to impaired driving.



• **Graduated Driver's Licence System** This process allows new drivers to earn their licences gradually, as they prove that they have the skills and maturity to be responsible drivers. Already