

# News Release

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For Immediate Release

## Winter months bring many close calls for busy CAA road service providers

Another dangerous incident on a Winnipeg street has prompted CAA Manitoba to remind all motorists that it is the law to slow down and move over when passing tow trucks and other emergency vehicles working on the side of the road.

Just over one year ago, CAA issued a similar call out to the public after a driver was standing outside his truck when a car tried to pass on a street narrowed by snow banks, and clipped the side-view mirror of the CAA truck.

On Monday, January 20, 2014, at about 10:30 a.m., a similar dangerous incident occurred. CAA Manitoba Battery Assist driver Jeff Laufer had just dropped a member off at his home on Sherbrook Street near Cumberland Avenue when a large vehicle sped by, clipped the side of the CAA truck and shattered its side-view mirror. Laufer suffered minor injuries to his left hand which was resting on the doorframe with the window unrolled when his truck was hit. As is safety protocol, all emergency beacons were lit and flashing when the CAA truck was hit. The driver made sure to not block other lanes, and was pulled as close to the curb as possible in order to do so.

“Thankfully our driver wasn’t badly hurt and is trained to be cautious while working on the side of the road, but not everyone is as aware,” said Liz Peters, CAA Manitoba Corporate Communications Manager, noting kids playing on snow banks and families unloading groceries would not be as aware in a similar situation.

The provincial government will soon proclaim amendments to add maximum speed limits to the Highway Traffic Act when passing tow trucks and emergency vehicles. When the speed limit is regularly 79 km/hour or less, motorists must slow down to 40 km/hour. When the speed is regularly 80 km/hour or more, motorists must slow down to 60 km/hour.

CAA Manitoba strongly supports these amendments because they will potentially help to improve safety for people who work on the side of the road – especially during the winter months when they are far more vehicles breaking down on the side of the road.

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