

News Release

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CAA Manitoba supports government plan to add demerits to talking and texting law

Annual CAA surveys show behaviors behind the wheel haven't changed

With the third anniversary of Manitoba's ban on talking and texting while driving just around the corner, CAA Manitoba supports the province's intention to add demerits to the current financial penalty.

Today on CJOB News, Premier Greg Selinger said demerits will soon be added to the current fine of \$199.80. CAA Manitoba agrees that the fine alone is not a significant enough deterrent for drivers to put down the personal electronic devices while driving – and an annual survey completed by the auto club indicated as much.

“CAA Members have consistently identified distracted driving as the number one road safety concern,” said Mike Mager, President and CEO for CAA Manitoba. “But after almost three years since the new talking and texting law came into effect, they say that motorists' habits haven't changed much.”

CAA annually surveys its membership on several topics surrounding distracted driving. On the question pertaining to adding demerits, over the last three surveys, there has been a definitive warming up to the idea of adding demerits to the current fine.

In CAA's most recent survey in February 2013, 77.6 per cent of the 8,651 survey respondents agreed that demerits should be added to the fine. That is up from 66 per cent on the same survey in February 2012, and up from 58 per cent on the same survey in 2011.

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