



London Diocesan Council
Of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

One Heart, One Voice, One Mission

To: All Parish Presidents, Legislation Chairpersons

CC: London Diocesan Council

From: Rebecca McCarrell, 1st Vice-President/London Diocesan Chairperson, Legislation

Date: September 19, 2015

Directive # 7

Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything. George Bernard Shaw

Welcome back! And, welcome to Carol Richer, Legislation Chairperson from the Provincial Council.

Carol request that we follow the upcoming election closely. "It offers us an opportunity to participate in shaping the laws that guide society. As Catholics, we don't have the option of sitting on the sidelines. However, when exercising our tight and duty to vote, it is important that we be guided by moral conviction rather than attachment to any particular party"

Please carefully consider each candidate's position on those issues most important to you...pro-life issues (abortion, euthanasia), health and education issues, refugees to name a few. Carol recommends these websites for your consideration:

YOUR RIGHT TO BE HEARD – a resource provided by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops in Ontario (www.acbo.on.ca)

FEDERAL ELECTIONS RESOURCE 2015 – A RESOURCE PREPARED BY THE Canadian Council of Churches (www.councilofchurches.ca)

ELECTORAL GUIDE 2015 – a resource from Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace (https://www.devp.org/sites/www.devp.org/files/IMCE/files/articles/electoral_guide.pdf)

The province of Ontario has introduced a new set of traffic laws as part of its efforts to make driving safer in the province.

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The "Making Ontario Roads Safer Act", or Bill 31, was approved unanimously in June and has come into effect Sept. 1—meaning some new rules for drivers and, in many cases, heavier penalties for breaking them.

Here is a look at five new traffic laws that are most likely to affect your everyday driving:

Distracted driving: If you're caught looking at your phone, texting or talking on your phone while driving, you will face much bigger fines and more demerit points, the province is warning. The current fine for distracted driving is approximately \$200. As of Tuesday, those found guilty of distracted driving will face fines up to \$1,000 and more demerit points. Drivers with G1 or G2 licenses could have their permits suspended on the spot.

Pedestrian crossovers: Drivers will have to wait until pedestrians have completely crossed the road at pedestrian crossovers and school crossings before proceeding. About half of all fatal traffic accidents involving pedestrians occur at intersections, the Ministry of Transportation said. The new law is an attempt to make roads safer for pedestrians. This change will take effect in January.

Passing cyclists: Drivers will have to give cyclists at least one metre of room wherever possible. The fine for breaking this rule has not yet been set. Motorists who open the door of their vehicle into the path of a cyclist without checking will face fines between \$300 and \$1,000 and three demerit points.

The "move over" law: As for Sept. 1, drivers will be required to slow down and move into the next lane whenever they see a stopped emergency vehicle with its red and blue lights flashing.

This will apply to stopped tow trucks that have amber lights flashing. The fine for breaking these rules will be \$490 and three demerit points.

Alcohol and drugs: Those caught driving under the influence of drugs will now face the same penalties as drunk drivers, the ministry said. These include between a three and 90-day license suspension and a week-long vehicle impoundment. More than 45 per cent of drivers killed in Ontario were found that have drugs or alcohol in their systems.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless you as you carry on our Lord's work! See you at the Fall Regional Days: Grand Bend, St. Thomas and Kingsville!

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