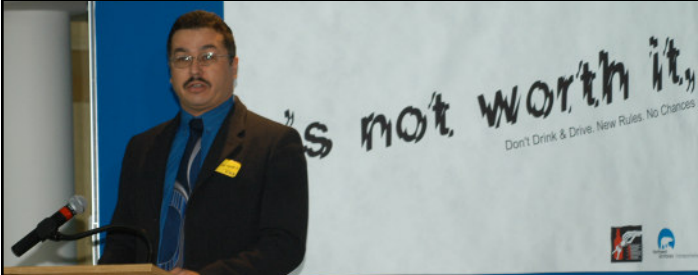


# The Transporter

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

## Minister announces new drinking and driving law to take effect Dec. 1



Minister McLeod speaks at launch event for campaign to inform public of new impaired driving law.

The Department of Transportation launched a campaign in October to inform the public that tough new rules on impaired driving will come into force in the NWT on December 1.

The campaign kicked off at an event in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife on October 6 at which Transportation Minister **Michael McLeod** announced the implementation date for previously approved amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act.

The department will use posters, household mail outs, buttons, newspaper, radio and television ads, drink coasters and a specially commissioned song to get the message out that drinking drivers will soon face the prospect of more serious penalties for their actions.

"We are taking this action because impaired driving continues to be a serious problem in our territory and right across Canada," Mr. McLeod told an audience which included Premier **Joseph Handley**, staff from Transportation, Health and Social Services and Education, law enforcement agencies, and members of Students Against Drinking and Driving (SADD) chapters at both St. Pat's and Sir John Franklin high schools in Yellowknife. "It has killed and injured too many Northerners and caused unnecessary grief and suffering for many others."

Changes to the law include new administrative authority that permits the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to impose administrative suspensions that will require drivers to meet certain conditions before they can get their licence back.

Police will have new powers to take drinking drivers off the road. The new law lowers the acceptable limit for blood-alcohol content from .08% to .05%. If a driver blows over .05 but less than .08, it will trigger an automatic 24-hour suspension. and a 30-day license suspension if it's the

second offence within two years of the first.

They will also be able to seize and impound vehicles involved in impaired driving offences. Police can impound the vehicle of someone who drives with a suspended licence. In the case of a suspension that was caused by an impaired driving conviction, the vehicle is taken away for 30 days, at the owner's expense. However, the legislation does allow for someone whose vehicle has been impounded to apply to the Registrar to review the impoundment and, in exceptional circumstances, release a vehicle.

Administrative penalties that the Registrar will impose for convictions are also set to increase. Anyone convicted of an impaired driving offence after December 1 will be subject to longer suspensions, on top of any penalties imposed under the Criminal Code. The worst offenders can be banned from driving for life.

The NWT law is unique among Canadian jurisdictions because of its holistic approach to the issue of impaired driving. It goes beyond deterrence to include provisions that are intended to address the fact that impaired driving is also a wellness issue that affects the health of NWT residents. Anyone convicted of a drinking-and-driving offence after December 1 will be required, as a condition of getting a licence reinstated, to purchase an Impaired Driver Assessment Package and complete a self-assessment with respect to drinking and driving. An offender must also undergo an enhanced driver medical. The reason for the assessment is to find out if there are underlying issues of substance abuse or other conditions that may be connected to why the offence happened.

The measures against impaired driving are part of the department's overall Strategy to Reduced Impaired Driving (STRID). The strategy was developed in consultation with an Inter-Agency Working Group comprised of representatives from community, health and law enforcement agencies. RCMP Inspector **Greg Morrow**, Chief Coroner **Percy Kinney** and **Michele Thoms**, teacher-advisor for the SADD group at St. Patrick High School, all spoke in support of the new measures to combat impaired driving.

One of the highlights of the campaign launch was the first performance of "No Chances", a hip hop song written and recorded for the campaign by Yellowknife singer, **Aaron Hernandez**. The song, with its message-rich lyrics, is intended to reach drivers 16-25 who, statistics show, are among the groups most likely to drink and drive.



An enthusiastic group of students from St. Pat's High School, members of the school's Students Against Drinking and Driving chapter, greet motorists heading to downtown Yellowknife to mark National Students Against Drinking and Driving Day on October 26. Their banner proclaims the message that is a central part of the public information campaign recently launched by the Department of Transportation in advance of tough new rules on drinking and driving in the NWT that come into force on December 1. The SADD chapter is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year.



SADD members from St Pat's and Sir John Franklin High School later attended assemblies at their respective schools at which Yellowknife hip-hop artists, **Aaron Hernandez** (bottom photo), performed "No Chances", the song he wrote for the campaign. Students also heard from **Blair Barbour**, Senior Policy and Program Analyst with the department's Road Licensing and Safety Division, about the new zero tolerance rules that will apply to new drivers once the amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act take effect.

## 'No Chances'

### Intro

Thousands Of Families Are Left Suffering  
Each Year Victims To The Drunk Drivers,  
If You're Gonna Drink, Leave Your Keys  
At Home

### Chorus

If You're Dealing With Car Keys,  
Then You're Best To Leave Yourself At  
The Bar Please  
Don't Need Another Drunk In A Car  
Please  
New Rules And No Chances To Harm Me  
**Verse One**  
Who Told You Life Was A Game, Life  
Ain't The Same  
If Your Playing With No Rules And

### Suffering The Pain

In A Split Second One Move Could Be Your Last  
If Your Drinking Your Mind Out, And Driving Real Fast  
Oh No.....There Goes Another One Gone  
Oh No.....There Goes Another One's Son  
Oh No.....You Made The Wrong Move Now  
Oh No.....Tell Me What Ya Gonna Do Now  
So How Is It, That A Drink Can Be Devilish  
Simply Put With Abuse And Embellish It  
Too Many Die Young That's My Word  
Could Save You And Me In This World  
One Less Drink Will Prevent The Tragic,  
It Doesn't Take Much To Not Touch The Habit  
A Dead Son, Will Make A Mother Ballistic  
So Don't Be A Number, A Vital Statistic  
**Verse Two**  
Like A Murderer, With A Hand On The Wheel  
Weapon Of Choice, Pick A Half Ton Steel

With Too Much Of Nothing Going Through Your Mind  
With Too Much To Drink, You're Gonna Do Time  
And For What, Just For Your Lack Of Intelligence  
One Wrong Move To You Is Irrelevant  
Be A Friend Send Your Buddy In A Cab  
So He Don't End Up At The Coroners Lab  
You Might Just Save A Life Or Two  
If You Think It's Worth That Much To You  
Well It Is, Think About Your Best Friend's Kids  
If You Don't Do It For You, Do It For His  
I'm Not Einstein, I'm A Common Sense Guy  
With A Who, What, Where When And Why  
Who Would Be You, What's In The Cup  
Why Choose To Drive, You're Gonna Mess Up

### Break

New Rules, No Chances , One Life, Think Twice  
Leave The Keys At Home, Don't Drink And Drive

## Marvin Zaozirny

### Accepts Director of Airports Position



**Marvin Zaozirny** (left) has been named Director of Airports . "I am definitely looking forward to the challenge," says Marvin. He has been with the GNWT for 25 years after being with Transport Canada for five years.

Congratulations Marvin.

## Reviewing the Deh Cho Bridge

Deputy Minister **Russell Neudorf** reaffirms the GNWT's support for construction of the Deh Cho Bridge during a presentation he made at a hearing in Fort Providence October 21 that was part of the project's environmental assessment by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. Supporting him at the hearing are: **Paul Cobban** (right), Environmental Assessment Analyst with RWED, and (middle) **Kevin McLeod**, Director of Highways with the Department of Transportation. Russ told the review panel that replacing the present ferry and ice bridge system with a kilometer-long bridge would bring economic and social benefits to communities in the North Slave by reducing overall transportation costs and isolation caused by seasonal interruptions in service across the Mackenzie. He said the public-private partnership between the department and the Fort Providence-based Deh Cho Bridge Corporation also fits with government's objective of promoting aboriginal business opportunities. Under the proposed agreement, the bridge corporation would finance, design, build and maintain the bridge for 35 years and then turn ownership over to government. Revenues from the project would come from savings of existing ferry/ ice bridge and tolls on commercial vehicles. The developer hopes to begin construction of the bridge in June, 2005 and have it open in the fall of 2006.



Friday morning, DOT offices in Yellowknife were alive with **Halloween** spirit.

**Photo 1:** **Kevin McLeod** (ghost), Director, Highways and **Doug Krause** (wizard), Engineering Systems Technician, Highways.

**Photo 2:** **Earle Gaetz** (ready for retirement), Occupational Health and Safety.

**Photo 3:** **Kim Snodgrass** (pink 50s gal), Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services and **Donna Taylor** (red 50s gal), Administration and Finance Coordinator, Highways.



## HR UPDATES

### Farewell...

Mireille Rivet- Directorate

### Welcome Back...

Dianne Edgar- Road Licensing and Safety  
Helen Edjericon- Airports

### Welcome...

Ronda Landry- North Slave  
Delores Lacorne- Planning and Policy  
Nagina Majeed- Highways  
Kamran Khanzada- Highways

Kathy Green- Directorate  
Candace Underhay- Corporate Services  
Roxane Landry- North Slave

Know of any new and exciting story ideas? Contact:

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