

# NEWS BRIEF

## Ontario Increases Fines for Traffic Violations

On Sept. 1, 2015, Ontario implemented stricter fines for traffic violations, with minimum penalties for certain offences nearing \$500. These changes are part of Bill 31, commonly referred to as the Making Ontario's Roads Safer Act. Below is an overview of the changes that are now in effect:

### **Distracted Driving**

The minimum fine for distracted driving has increased from \$280 to \$490, with maximum penalties of up to \$1,000. In addition, those cited for distracted driving will receive three demerit points.

### **"Dooring" Cyclists**

The minimum fine for drivers hitting cyclists with their vehicles' doors has increased to \$360. In addition, drivers cited for "dooring" cyclists will receive three demerit points.

### **Passing Cyclists**

Drivers who don't leave at least 1 metre of space when passing cyclists will receive a minimum fine of \$110 and two demerit points. The fine increases to \$180 in a community safety zone.

### **Improper Bicycle Lighting**

Cyclists who ride bicycles without proper lights and reflectors will face a minimum fine of \$110. The previous fine was \$20.

### **Slow Down, Move Over**

Ontario's "move over" law now requires vehicles to slow down and move into another lane when passing stopped tow trucks (not just emergency vehicles). Those cited for this offence will face a minimum fine of \$490.

### **Future Changes**

More changes to Ontario's traffic laws are planned for 2016, including:

- A new law that protects pedestrians at crosswalks and school crossings (Jan. 1, 2016)
- Stricter penalties for those driving under the influence of drugs (Fall 2016)

Please contact Beyond Insurance Brokers Inc. for additional legislative updates.

