

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.

