
MEDIA RELEASE

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DO THE RIGHT THING THIS HOLIDAY WEEKEND: PLAN A SAFE RIDE HOME

Toronto: ***“Plan a safe ride home this holiday weekend”*** - warns Ontario Community Council on Impaired Driving (OCCID) on the eve of new federal legislation (Bill C2) to fight impaired driving. In addition, OCCID reminds drivers that the consequences for impaired driving in Ontario are significant and that in a typical simple scenario, a driver or boat operator charged with “over .08” this long weekend will ***not have a regular valid licence until about Labour Day of 2010***. Other consequences include: fines, fees, legal costs and increased insurance premiums totaling a minimum of \$20,000; a criminal record; and possibly a change in workplace status if your job requires a valid licence.

“Passing and enacting legislation is a solid starting point” according to OCCID Executive Director Anne Leonard, “making sure the public becomes aware of consequences is equally vital”. OCCID surveys for the last seven years have found that a majority of the public are unaware of legislation including: the costs and consequences for impaired driving; the ignition interlock program and other reinstatement conditions; and a maximum sentence of life in prison for those convicted of impaired driving causing death.

Since 1998 OCCID has used the Arrive Alive Passport to Safety to raise awareness of impaired driving legislation and prevention strategies and will endeavor to continue to do so in support of new measures brought in through Bill C2.

OCCID has hosted **arrive alive DRIVE SOBER®** in Ontario for the last 20 years and is the new home for another very well established program in Canada: **Operation Lookout®**.

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Visit www.arrivealive.org; www.call911.ca for more information.

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