



# Legislative Library of British Columbia

---

Current Issues 2009:02/ September 2009

## **CELLPHONES AND DRIVING**

The use of cellphones by drivers continues to be a topic of debate among decision-makers, researchers, traffic safety advocates and the public. This list includes reports, articles, news stories and websites related to the use of cellphones while driving and the issue of the distracted driver.

Prepared by Nancy Chapman  
Reference Librarian  
Legislative Library of British Columbia

# **LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA BACKGROUND PAPERS AND BRIEFS**

---

## **ABOUT THE PAPERS**

Staff of the Legislative Library prepare Background Papers, Background Briefs and Current Issues on aspects of provincial history and public policy. All papers can be viewed on the library's website at <http://www.llbc.leg.bc.ca/>

## **SOURCES**

All sources cited in the papers are part of the library collection or available on the Internet. The Legislative Library's collection includes an estimated 300,000 print items, including a large number of BC government documents dating from colonial times to the present. The library also downloads current online BC government documents to its catalogue.

## **DISCLAIMER**

The views expressed in this paper do not necessarily represent the views of the Legislative Library or the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. While great care is taken to ensure these papers are accurate and balanced, the Legislative Library is not responsible for errors or omissions. Papers are written using information publicly available at the time of production and the Library cannot take responsibility for the absolute accuracy of those sources. Inclusions of websites or other sources should not be taken as an endorsement of any kind.

## **CONTACT THE LIBRARY**

Legislative Library of British Columbia  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC  
V8V 1X4  
Tel: 250-387-6510  
Email: [LLBC.Ref@leg.bc.ca](mailto:LLBC.Ref@leg.bc.ca)

## CELLPHONES AND DRIVING

The use of cellphones by drivers is a topic of debate among decision-makers, researchers, traffic safety advocates and the public.

Various jurisdictions around the world now restrict the types of cellphones and electronic devices used by drivers. Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Quebec ban hand-held cellphone use by all drivers. Prince Edward Island restricts new drivers from using cellphones or any hand-held electronic device while driving. In Ontario, legislation was passed in April to ban text messaging and the use of hand-held cellphones. The law comes into force on October 26, 2009. Manitoba has introduced similar legislation but is planning to launch a public awareness campaign before proclaiming the legislation in 2010.

In the summer of 2009, British Columbia's Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General released a discussion paper on distracted driving. They consulted the public on the issue of whether laws should be passed to restrict the use of electronic devices by drivers.

### REPORTS:

#### British Columbia

*Discussion Paper: Addressing the Problem of Distracted Driving and its Impacts to Road Safety.* British Columbia. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles. [Victoria]: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, [2009].

[http://www.llbc.leg.bc.ca/public/PubDocs/bcdocs/458379/distracted\\_driver\\_cell\\_phone\\_discussion\\_paper.pdf](http://www.llbc.leg.bc.ca/public/PubDocs/bcdocs/458379/distracted_driver_cell_phone_discussion_paper.pdf)

*Time to Hang Up: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Public Consultation on "Distracted Drivers: Use of Cell Phones and Other Technologies While Driving".* British Columbia Medical Association. [Vancouver]: British Columbia Medical Association, 2009.

[https://www.bcma.org/files/Time\\_to\\_Hang\\_Up\\_July\\_09.pdf](https://www.bcma.org/files/Time_to_Hang_Up_July_09.pdf)

*The Impact of Auditory Tasks (as in Hand-Free Cell Phone Use) on Driving Performance.* Insurance Corporation of British Columbia Safety Research. Victoria: Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, 2001.

<http://www.llbc.leg.bc.ca/public/PubDocs/bcdocs/403845/impact2.pdf>

## Canada

*Public Health Advisory on the Effects of Cell Phone Use While Driving, with recommendations.* Diane Sergerie. Direction développement des individus et des communautés, [Quebec City]: Institut national de sante publique de Quebec, 2008.  
[http://www.inspq.qc.ca/pdf/publications/747\\_EffectsCellPhoneWhileDriving.pdf](http://www.inspq.qc.ca/pdf/publications/747_EffectsCellPhoneWhileDriving.pdf)

*Distracted Driving and Cell Phone Use While Driving.* Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation. [Edmonton]: Infrastructure and Transportation, Alberta, 2007.  
<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType48/Production/DistractedDrivingReportSept-07.pdf>

*The Effects of Cellphone and CD Use on Novice and Experienced Driver Performance.* Alison Smiley. [Ottawa]: Insurance Bureau of Canada, 2007.  
[http://www.ibc.ca/en/Car\\_Insurance/documents/road\\_safety/DriverDistraction\\_full\\_study\\_jan2007.pdf](http://www.ibc.ca/en/Car_Insurance/documents/road_safety/DriverDistraction_full_study_jan2007.pdf)

*Summary of Proceedings and Recommendations: International Conference on Distracted Driving: 2005: Toronto.* Jim Hedlund, Herb Simpson, and Dan Mayhew. Ottawa: Canadian Automobile Association and Traffic Injury Research Foundation, [2005].  
<http://www.distracteddriving.ca/english/documents/ENGLISH-DDProceedingsandRecommendations.pdf>

*Effects of Cellular Telephones on Driving Behaviour and Crash Risk: Results of Meta-Analysis.* Jeffrey K. Caird et al. Prepared for CAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Calgary: University of Calgary & Human Factors North, Inc.. 2004.  
[http://www.ama.ab.ca/images/images\\_pdf/FinalReport\\_CellPhones4.pdf](http://www.ama.ab.ca/images/images_pdf/FinalReport_CellPhones4.pdf)

## United States

*Driver Cell Phone Use in 2006.* Donna Glassbrenner and Tony Jianqiang Ye. U.S. Department of Transportation. National Center for Statistics and Analysis. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Transportation. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2007.  
<http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/810790.PDF>

*Driving Under the (Cellular) Influence: The Link Between Cell Phone Use and Vehicle Crashes: Working Paper 07-15.* Saurabh Bhargava and Vikram Pathania. Washington, D.C.: American Enterprise Institute-Brookings Joint Center for Regulatory Studies, 2007.  
[http://aei-brookings.org/admin/authorpdfs/redirect-safely.php?fname=../pdffiles/WP07-15\\_topost.pdf](http://aei-brookings.org/admin/authorpdfs/redirect-safely.php?fname=../pdffiles/WP07-15_topost.pdf)

*The Impact of Driver Inattention on Near-Crash/Crash Risk: An Analysis Using the 100-Car Naturalistic Driving Study Data: Technical Report DOT HS 810 594.* S.G. Klaus et al. Washington, D.C.: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2006.

*The Impact of Driver Cell Phone Use on Accidents: Working Paper 04-14.* Robert W. Hahn and James E. Prieger. Washington, D.C.: American Enterprise Institute-Brookings Joint Center for Regulatory Studies, 2006.

<http://aei-brookings.org/admin/authorpdfs/redirect-safely.php?fname=../pdffiles/Hahn-PriegerREPOST1-4-07.pdf>

“Why do Cell Phone Conversations Interfere with Driving?” David L. Strayer et al. In *Cognitive Technology: Essays on the Transformation of Thought and Society*, edited by W. R. Walker and D. Herrmann, 51-68. Jefferson (N.C.): McFarland & Company, Inc..[2005].

<http://www.psych.utah.edu/AppliedCognitionLab/CogTechChapter.pdf>

“Fatal Distraction? A Comparison of the Cell-Phone Driver and the Drunk Driver.” David L.Strayer [et al]. In *Driving Assessment 2003: International Symposium on Human Factors in Driver Assessment, Training, and Vehicle Design*, edited by D .V. McGehee, J.D. Lee & M. Rizzo, 25-30. Iowa City: University of Iowa, [2003].

[http://ppc.uiowa.edu/driving-assessment/2003/Summaries/Downloads/Final\\_Papers/PDF/5\\_Strayerformat.pdf](http://ppc.uiowa.edu/driving-assessment/2003/Summaries/Downloads/Final_Papers/PDF/5_Strayerformat.pdf)

*Status Summary: Using Wireless Communication Devices While Driving.* U.S. Department of Transportation. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Transportation. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, [2002].

<http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/images/nytint/docs/documents-from-the-u-s-department-of-transportation-s-national-highway-traffic-safety-administration/original.pdf>

*Along for the Ride: Reducing Driver Distractions: Final Report of the Driver Focus and Technology Forum.* National Conference of State Legislatures. Washington, D.C.: National Conference of State Legislatures, 2002.

<http://www.ncsl.org/documents/transportation/driverdistract02.pdf>

*Cellular Phone Use While Driving: Risks and Benefits.* Karen Lissy et al. Boston: Harvard Center for Risk Analysis. Harvard School of Public Health, 2000.

<http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/Human%20Factors/driver-distraction/PDF/Harvard.PDF>

## **NEWS ARTICLES:**

“Ontario law called a model for cellphone bans.” John Shmuel. *Telegraph-Journal*, July 30, 2009: A1.

<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=9&did=1810517491&SrchMode=1&sid=3&Fmt=3&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1251328042&clientId=58106>

“Driven to Distraction: In study, texting lifts crash risk by large margin.” Matt Richtel. *New York Times*, July 27, 2009.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/28/technology/28texting.html?\\_r=1&em](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/28/technology/28texting.html?_r=1&em)

“Driven to Distraction: Drivers and legislators dismiss cellphone risks.” Matt Richtel. *New York Times*, July 18, 2009.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/19/technology/19distracted.html>

“Room for Debate: Should cellphone use by drivers be illegal?” *New York Times*, July 18, 2009.

<http://roomfordebate.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/07/18/should-cellphone-use-by-drivers-be-illegal/?ref=technology>

“Majority say ban cell phones while driving: poll.” Derek McNaughton. *Vancouver Sun*, November 28, 2008.

<http://tno.gov.bc.ca/tno/servlet/tno.otis.servlet?command=showstory&rsn=73541934>

“Ontario bill would ban cellphone use by drivers.” Zosia Bielski. *Globe and Mail*, Oct. 27, 2008: A06.

<http://tno.gov.bc.ca/tno/servlet/tno.otis.servlet?command=showstory&rsn=73234572>

“Cellphone law may not make roads safer.” Myron Levin. *Los Angeles Times*, March 25, 2008.

<http://articles.latimes.com/2008/mar/25/local/me-distract25?pg=1>

“Cellphone driving restriction mulled.” Lindsay Kines. *Vancouver Sun*, Jan. 24, 2008: A02.

<http://tno.gov.bc.ca/tno/servlet/tno.otis.servlet?command=showstory&rsn=70542129>

## **JOURNAL ARTICLES:**

“Shifting Attention Across Near and Far Spaces: Implications for the Use of Hands-Free Cell Phones While Driving.” Fabio Ferlazzo [et al]. *Accident Analysis and Prevention* 40, no. 6 (2008):1859-1864.

<http://w3.uniroma1.it/dinocera/stuff/papers/aap2008.pdf>

“Cell-Phone-Induced Driver Distraction.” David L. Strayer [et al]. *Current Directions in Psychological Science* 16, No. 3 (2007):128 – 131.

<http://www.psych.utah.edu/AppliedCognitionLab/cdir489.pdf>

“A Comparison of the Cell Phone Driver and the Drunk Driver.” David L. Strayer [et al]. *Human Factors* 48 (2006):381-391.

<http://www.psych.utah.edu/AppliedCognitionLab/HFES2006.pdf>

“Role of Mobile Phones in Motor Vehicle Crashes Resulting in Hospital Attendance: a Case-Crossover Study.” Suzanne P. McEvoy. *British Medical Journal* (July 12, 2005).  
<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/rapidpdf/bmj.38537.397512.55v1>

“Profiles in Driver Distraction: Effects of Cell Phone Conversations on Younger and Older Drivers.” David L. Strayer [et al]. *Human Factors* 46 (2004): 640-649.  
<http://www.psych.utah.edu/AppliedCognitionLab/StrayerHFES04.pdf>

“Cell Phone-Induced Failures of Visual Attention During Simulated Driving.” David L. Strayer [et al]. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied* 9, No. 1 (2003): 23-32.  
[http://www.cellphonefreedriving.ca/media/failures\\_of\\_visual\\_attention.pdf](http://www.cellphonefreedriving.ca/media/failures_of_visual_attention.pdf)

“A Revised Economic Analysis of Restrictions on the Use of Cell Phones While Driving.” Joshua T. Cohen [et al]. *Risk Analysis* 23, No. 1, (2003): 5-17.  
[http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/about\\_us/meet\\_us/roger\\_pielke/envs\\_5120/week\\_1/Cohen\\_RA.pdf](http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/about_us/meet_us/roger_pielke/envs_5120/week_1/Cohen_RA.pdf)

“Collision and Violation Involvement of Drivers Who Use Cellular Telephones’.” Jean Wilson et al. *Traffic Injury Prevention* 4, No. 1 (2003): 45-52.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15389580309851>

#### **WEBSITES:**

“Countries That Ban Cell Phones While Driving.” cellular-news.  
[http://www.cellular-news.com/car\\_bans/](http://www.cellular-news.com/car_bans/)  
(accessed August 18, 2009).

“State Cell Phone Driving Laws.” Governors Highway Safety Association.  
[http://www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/cellphone\\_laws.html](http://www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/cellphone_laws.html)  
(accessed August 18, 2009).

“Conference Presentations.” International Conference on Distracted Driving: 2005: Toronto. [October 2-5, 2005].  
<http://www.distracteddriving.ca/english/presentations.cfm>  
(accessed August 18, 2009).

“Distracted Driving Resources.” National Safety Council.  
[http://www.nsc.org/resources/issues/distracted\\_driving.aspx](http://www.nsc.org/resources/issues/distracted_driving.aspx)  
(accessed August 27, 2009).