

MADD Canada's *Rating the Provinces Initiative*

Every three years, MADD Canada undertakes a comprehensive review of provincial and territorial legislation related to impaired driving. In the intervening years, the organization conducts a review of the progress that each jurisdiction has made in the last 12 months. *The 2007 Progress Report* is the most recent update.

In September, 2006, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Canada released *Rating the Provinces and Territories: The 2006 Report Card*. This document was designed to facilitate a dialogue on impaired driving with the provincial and territorial governments and assist them in reducing the related crash deaths and injuries.

The 2006 Report Card examined four areas: licensing; police enforcement powers; licence suspensions and revocations; and vehicle and remedial programs. In selecting the core elements of *The 2006 Report Card*, priority was given to measures that would garner the greatest public support and have the most significant impact on reducing impaired driving crashes. The core elements of *The 2006 Report Card* are:

- a comprehensive graduated licensing program for all new drivers, including express police powers to enforce it;
- a .00% blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) limit for all drivers under 21 or with less than five years driving experience;
- express police powers to stop vehicles, establish sobriety checkpoints, and demand field sobriety testing from suspected alcohol and/or drug-impaired drivers;
- a strengthening of the existing short-term roadside licence suspension programs for drivers with BACs of .05% or higher to include a 7-14 day licence suspension, a \$150-\$300 licence reinstatement fee, the recording of the suspension on the driver's record, and mandatory remedial measures for repeat violations; and
- mandatory alcohol interlock, vehicle impoundment and forfeiture, and remedial programs.

The public can view *The 2007 Progress Report* from a news link off the top page of the MADD Canada website – www.madd.ca

For further information, call:

Andrew Murie, MADD Canada's CEO @ 1-800-665-6233, ext. 224

Robert Solomon, MADD Canada's Director of Legal Policy @ (519) 661-3603