

# Distracted Driving Legislation Chart

## CANADA

### Provincial and Territorial Distracted Driving Legislation<sup>1</sup>

Province/Territory	Cellular Phone Legislation	Other Legislation
<p><b>British Columbia</b> (Motor Vehicle Act, Part 3.1, Regulation 308)</p>	<p><b>(NEW) Effective January 1, 2010</b> A driver must not use* a hand-held cellular phone while operating a motor vehicle. The use of cellular phones in hands-free mode is permitted if they are voice-activated or require only one touch to initiate, accept or end a call.</p>	<p><b>(NEW) Effective January 1, 2010</b> A driver must not operate a motor vehicle with a television screen unless it is securely fixed to the vehicle so it does not obstruct the driver's view and the image displayed is not visible to the driver, or it displays information related to the safe operation of the vehicle. A driver using a global positioning system (GPS) for navigation must ensure the device is securely installed onto the vehicle so it does not obstruct the driver's view and must program the device before driving or in a voice-activated manner. A driver may use a hand-held audio player while operating a motor vehicle if the device is not in their hand, but is securely fixed to the vehicle or worn on their body, and is played through the vehicle's speakers.</p>
<p><b>Alberta</b> (Traffic Safety Act, Bill 16, Sections 115.1-115.4)</p>	<p><b>(PROPOSED NEW LEGISLATION) Currently Under Review</b> A driver must not use* a hand-held cellular phone while operating a motor vehicle. Drivers may use cellular phones in hands-free mode.</p>	<p><b>(PROPOSED NEW LEGISLATION) Currently Under Review</b> A driver must not operate a motor vehicle if the display screen of a television, computer, or other device, excluding those that provide vehicle information, is activated and visible to the driver. A driver may use a GPS unit for navigation purposes while operating a motor vehicle if the device is voice-activated or programmed before they begin driving. A driver must not operate a motor vehicle while engaged in an activity that distracts them from safe operation of the vehicle, including reading or viewing printed material, writing or sketching, or engaging in personal grooming or hygiene.</p>
<p><b>Saskatchewan</b> (Traffic Safety Act, Division 6, Section 241 &amp; 241.1)</p>	<p><b>(NEW) Effective January 1, 2010</b> A driver must not use* a cellular phone while operating a motor vehicle. A driver who is not a new driver may use a voice-activated or hands-free device.</p>	<p>A driver must not operate a vehicle equipped with a television, video or computer screen, unless the device is securely mounted and located so it does not obstruct the view of the driver, or the screen displays information solely related to the vehicle or is used to navigate.</p>

<p align="center"><b>Manitoba</b> (Highway Traffic Act, Sections 214(3), 214(4), and 215.1)</p>	<p align="center"><b>(NEW) Effective July 15, 2010</b> A driver must not use* a hand-operated cellular phone while operating a motor vehicle, unless the phone is used in a hands-free manner.</p>	<p align="center">A driver must not operate a vehicle equipped with a television set unless it is positioned behind the driver's seat and the screen is not visible by the driver.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Ontario</b> (Highway Traffic Act, Sections 78 &amp; 78.1)</p>	<p align="center"><b>(NEW) Effective October 26, 2009</b> A driver must not hold or use a hand-held cellular phone while operating a motor vehicle. A driver may use a cellular phone in hands-free mode.</p>	<p align="center"><b>(NEW) Effective October 26, 2009</b> A driver may not operate a motor vehicle while using a hand-held electronic entertainment device. A driver must not operate a motor vehicle if the display screen of a television, computer or other device is visible to the driver.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Quebec</b> (Highway Safety Code, Sections 439 &amp; 439.1)</p>	<p align="center"><b>(NEW) Effective April 1, 2008</b> A driver must not use a hand-held cellular phone while operating a motor vehicle.</p>	<p align="center">A driver must not operate a motor vehicle in which a television or display screen is placed so the image is directly or indirectly visible to the driver.</p>
<p align="center"><b>New Brunswick</b> (Motor Vehicle Act)</p>	<p align="center">NO PROVINCIAL LAW</p>	<p align="center">NO PROVINCIAL LAW</p>
<p align="center"><b>Nova Scotia</b> (Motor Vehicle Act, Sections 100D(1) and 184(7))</p>	<p align="center"><b>(NEW) Effective April 1, 2008</b> A driver must not use a hand-held cellular phone or engage in text messaging while operating a motor vehicle.</p>	<p align="center">A driver must not operate a motor vehicle equipped with a television screen located forward of the driver's seat or that is visible to the driver.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Prince Edward Island</b> (Highway Traffic Act, Sections 291.1 and 133)</p>	<p align="center"><b>(NEW) Effective January 23, 2010</b> A driver must not use or hold a hand-held cellular phone while operating a motor vehicle. A driver may operate a motor vehicle while using a cellular phone in hands-free mode.</p>	<p align="center">A driver must not operate a motor vehicle equipped with a television set or carrying a television set while the set is in operation.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b> (Highway Traffic Act, Part V, Sections 176.1 &amp; 34)</p>	<p align="center"><b>(AMENDED) Effective October 1, 2010</b> A driver must not hold or use a hand-held cellular phone while driving a motor vehicle.</p>	<p align="center">A driver must not operate a motor vehicle equipped with a television set located in front of the driver's seat or visible to the driver while they are operating the vehicle, unless it is a closed circuit television system or display unit used to assist in the operation of the vehicle.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Yukon</b> (Motor Vehicle Act, Section 132)</p>	<p align="center">NO PROVINCIAL LAW</p>	<p align="center">A driver must not operate a motor vehicle equipped with a television set unless it is located and operated so that the driver cannot see the screen while the vehicle is in motion.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Northwest Territories</b> (Motor Vehicle Act, Section 145)</p>	<p align="center">NO PROVINCIAL LAW</p>	<p align="center">A driver must not operate a motor vehicle equipped with a display screen or viewing screen located in front of the driver's seat or visible to the driver while they are operating the vehicle.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Nunavut</b> (Motor Vehicle Act, Section 145)</p>	<p align="center">NO PROVINCIAL LAW</p>	<p align="center">A driver must not operate a motor vehicle equipped with a display screen or viewing screen located in front of the driver's seat or visible to the driver while they are operating the vehicle.</p>

1 For information purposes only. Please consult local authorities for further interpretation and current status.

\*Use is further defined as holding, viewing, operating any of the device's functions or communicating by means of the device, including making, answering or ending a phone call, texting, e-mailing, or accessing the Internet.

### **Provincial and Territorial Government Links:**

Government of British Columbia <http://www.gov.bc.ca/tran/index.html>

Government of Alberta <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca>

Government of Saskatchewan <http://www.highways.gov.sk.ca/>

Government of Manitoba <http://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/>

Government of Ontario <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/distracted-driving/index.shtml>

Government of Quebec [http://www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca/portal/page/portal/accueil\\_en](http://www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca/portal/page/portal/accueil_en)

Government of New Brunswick <http://www.gnb.ca/0276/DriversAndVehicles/index-e.asp>

Government of Nova Scotia <http://www.gov.ns.ca/tran/roadsafety/roadsafety.asp>

Government of Prince Edward Island <http://www.gov.pe.ca/tir/index.php3>

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador <http://www.tw.gov.nl.ca/>

Government of Yukon <http://www.hpw.gov.yk.ca/>

Government of Northwest Territories <http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca/live/pages/wpPages/home.aspx>

Government of Nunavut <http://www.edt.gov.nu.ca/apps/authoring/dspPage.aspx?page=home>