

Ride smart, stay safe: Motorcycle safety matters

Whitby, Ontario –. With the arrival of nicer weather, motorcyclists are hitting the roads in Durham roads. Motorcyclists are at high risk of injury in collisions. Approximately 63 per cent of motorcycle collisions result in an injury or fatality. Durham Region along with Durham Regional Police Service, supports Durham Vision Zero and works with road safety partners to create safer roads and reduce collisions, road fatalities and injuries with the goal of zero people killed or injured on Durham roads.

Motorcyclists can take steps to reduce the chances of being involved in a collision, while drivers can help by being vigilant and watching out for motorcycles especially at intersections and when changing lanes.

Tips for motorcyclists:
Inspect your bike before every ride. Check tires, oil levels, brakes and lights.
Wear appropriate safety gear to reduce the risk of injury in case of an accident, including a helmet with the

chin strap securely fastened that meets standards approved for use in Ontario, a jacket and pants that cover your arms and legs completely even in warmer weather, and sturdy leather gloves designed for motorcycle use. Wear boots that provide ankle support and protection. Bright-coloured or reflective clothing can help increase visibility.

Stay calm and alert. Driving a motorcycle requires full concentration and attention. Do not drive if you are impaired in any way.

Pay attention to surroundings including traffic, road conditions and other potential hazards. Don't assume that you are seen by other drivers. Be prepared to brake or change lanes if needed.

Obey traffic laws. All road users should follow the rules of the road including traffic signs, signals and speed limits. Reducing speed is the best way to reduce the frequency and severity of collisions in our community.

Tips for drivers of other vehicles:

Actively scan surroundings, check mirrors and the surrounding area regularly and be aware of blind spots.

Use turn signals and shoulder checks before changing lanes or making turns. Motorcycles can be more challenging to spot among larger vehicles. Use extra precautions at night or during inclement weather.

Maintain a safe distance when following behind motorcycles to allow them room to maneuver and react to road conditions. When passing motorcycles, ensure there is enough space to avoid cutting them off.

Don't assume a motorcycle is changing lanes if they are shifting. They often shift in their lane as they drive.

Exercise caution when approaching intersections and watch for motorcycles. Avoid making sudden turns or lane changes. Intersections are high-risk areas for motorcycle accidents.

All road users share responsibility in keeping motorcyclists safe!

Ontario Taking Action to Strengthen Local Governance

Province re-introducing legislation to create a standardized municipal code of conduct
The Ontario government is protecting communities by re-introducing legislation that would, if passed, strengthen municipal governance and accountability.

Ontario is proposing changes through the Municipal Accountability Act, 2025 that would enable the creation of a new, standardized municipal code of conduct, an integrity commissioner inquiry process that would be consistent throughout the province and mandatory code of conduct training for members of council and certain local boards.

"Strong local governance begins with accountability," said Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "People across Ontario trust their members of council to uphold high standards for how they conduct themselves and address the decisions before them. We have worked closely with Ontario's Integrity Commissioner to provide municipal leaders with new tools and resources to deliver good government."

If passed, the changes would include a penalty of removing and disqualifying a member from office if they are in serious violation of the code. Removal and disqualification could only occur upon the recommendation of the municipal integrity commissioner, a concurring report from the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario and a unanimous vote of council.

"Municipal councils in Ontario have asked for legislation that holds elected officials to a higher standard of accountability," said Robin Jones, AMO President and Mayor of Westport. "If passed, this bill would deliver on ensuring that as members of council, we are living up to the trust that residents put in us. We commend Minister Flack for getting to this point."

The proposed changes in the Municipal Accountability Act, 2025 would amend the Municipal Act, 2001 and the City of Toronto Act, 2006, to strengthen the municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner framework.

Decisions about what is included in the standardized code of conduct will be made after consultations with the municipal sector. It could include rules for ethical behaviour with respect to, for example, harassment and discrimination and training requirements for members of council and certain local boards.

Working with the municipal sector, Ontario plans to develop the necessary regulations to support the new framework to come into effect for the new term of councils in 2026.

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