Cracking Down on Excessive Vehicle Noise

Steeper fines will help deter revving engines and illegal mufflers.

The Ontario government intends to introduce legislation that would increase minimum fines for drivers who cause excessive vehicle noise. The proposed measure is in response to municipalities that have petitioned the province for stronger tools to deter drivers who are revving engines or installing illegal mufflers. If passed, the minimum fine for these offences would be raised from $60 to $200 while maintaining the maximum fine of $1,000.

“Extreme noise is disruptive to communities and drowns out vital emergency sirens and pedestrian warnings while distracting drivers and delaying reaction times,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “By increasing fines, we’re giving law enforcement the tools they need to protect communities and keep roads safe.”

Under the Highway Traffic Act, police have the authority to take enforcement action against drivers who cause excessive or unnecessary vehicle noise, including through prohibited exhaust modifications and deliberate engine revving. If passed, Ontario’s legislation would amend the Highway Traffic Act to strengthen existing enforcement efforts, helping deter repeat offenders and ensuring drivers who disregard the rules face tougher consequences.

“Our government’s proposed legislation to increase the minimum fine for excessive vehicle noise would help keep neighbourhoods safe and welcoming,” said George Pirie, Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth. “By holding drivers accountable for excessive noise, we are helping protect the quality of life people value in communities across Ontario while ensuring Ontario’s transportation system works for residents, businesses and local communities.”

Ontario's Highway Traffic Act requires motor vehicles to have properly functioning mufflers to prevent excessive or unusual noise and prohibits drivers from causing unnecessary vehicle noise. The proposed amendments to the Highway Traffic Act will be introduced in upcoming legislation.

Ontario’s roads rank among the safest in North America, with one of the lowest fatality rates per 10,000 licensed drivers.

In 2025, Ontario introduced measures to crack down on dangerous driving, including tougher penalties for serious driving offences and a lifetime driver's licence suspension for anyone convicted of impaired driving causing death.

"Every family in Ontario deserves to feel safe and enjoy peace of mind in their own neighbourhood. Excessive vehicle noise is more than just a nuisance. It disrupts communities and shows a blatant disregard for the people who live there. By increasing penalties for unnecessary vehicle noise, our government is sending a clear message that this behaviour will not be tolerated, while giving police stronger tools to protect our communities and maintain the quality-of-life Ontarians deserve."
- Michael Kerzner
Solicitor General

"Every resident deserves to enjoy peace and quiet in their own neighbourhood. Excessive vehicle noise disrupts families, impacts local businesses, and affects the quality of life in our communities. Our government is taking meaningful action by proposing stronger penalties for drivers who create unnecessary noise, increasing the minimum fine from $60 to $200. By working to discourage this behaviour, we are helping create safer, quieter and more respectful neighbourhoods across Mississauga–Streetsville and throughout Ontario."
- Nina Tangri
MPP for Mississauga–Streetsville

"Vehicle noise, muffler modifications and car racing can be frustrating for families who just want a quiet and peaceful neighbourhood. Our government is taking action to protect the communities we serve by increasing penalties for excessive vehicle noise."
- Sheref Sabawy
MPP for Mississauga–Erin Mills

"Everyone deserves to enjoy their neighbourhood without being disturbed by excessive and unnecessary vehicle noise. In a growing community like Brampton Centre, where families live, work and raise their children, being considerate of those around us matters. Increasing fines sends a clear message that this behaviour is unacceptable and reinforces the importance of respecting the communities we call home."
- Charmaine Williams
MPP for Brampton Centre

"I've heard from residents across Brampton North who are frustrated by excessive vehicle noise disrupting their neighbourhoods. Whether it's families trying to enjoy their backyards or neighbours looking for a quiet evening at home, these concerns deserve to be heard. By proposing to increase minimum fines for excessive vehicle noise, our government is taking action to address these concerns and help keep our neighbourhoods peaceful."
- Graham McGregor
MPP for Brampton North

"Brampton residents have told us how frustrating it is to be woken up by drivers revving their engines or roaring through their neighbourhoods. I welcome Ontario’s proposal to raise the minimum fine from $60 to $200. A higher fine gives police a stronger tool to deter this behaviour and helps residents get some peace and quiet in their own homes."
- Patrick Brown
Mayor of Brampton

"Residents deserve to enjoy their homes and neighbourhoods without being disrupted by excessive vehicle noise. While most drivers are respectful and law-abiding, a small number continue to impact entire communities through unnecessary noise. Increasing the minimum fine sends a clear message that this behaviour is unacceptable and that those who choose to ignore the law will face steeper consequences."
- Deputy Chief Marc Andrews
Peel Regional Police

Lakeridge Health opens doors to Durham Region’s future health care workforce

OSHAWA, November 20, 2026 – Building Durham Region’s future health workforce starts with helping young people see the possibilities close to home. At Lakeridge Health’s October 21 Pathways to Care event, students did just that, trying clinical skills, exploring hospital careers and meeting the people behind them.

For Harleigh Daniel, a Grade 11 student from Oshawa, the experience opened up new options.

“I knew there were lots of jobs in health care, but I didn’t realize how many options I had,” said Daniel. “Getting to try things and talk to people who do these jobs helped me picture what I might like to do. I’m still figuring it out, but now I have more ideas and a better sense of what I want to learn about next.”

Created by the Lakeridge Health Education and Research Network (LHEARN), Pathways to Care gives high school students opportunities to discover careers they may never have considered. Students practised CPR, explored ultrasound and airway management, toured Diagnostic Imaging and met professionals across clinical and support services.

All 150 available spots were claimed in less than a minute, a new registration record, with another 150 students on the waiting list by the end of the day.

“Students are eager to explore, and the response tells us how much these opportunities matter,” said Anna Twohey, Pathways to Care Co-Lead and Associate, Education & LHEARN. “A conversation or a hands-on experience can introduce someone to a career they had never considered. That’s the door we want to open.”

Representatives from Durham College, Ontario Tech University and Queen’s University helped students connect those career possibilities with the education and training needed to pursue them.

“A hospital is like a city,” said Dr. Nadia Ismiil, Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief, Academic Affairs, Research & LHEARN. “It takes people with interests in science, technology, business, the arts and so much more to make it work. We want students to stay curious, explore those possibilities and see that their talents have a place in health care.”

Investing in the future of health care

As communities across Canada face health workforce shortages, introducing young people to these careers is an investment in the care our communities will need. Pathways to Care puts Lakeridge Health’s 2026–2031 Strategic Plan into action, supporting its priority of Leading Education and Research through hands-on learning, mentorship and education partnerships.

“Every student who walks through our doors brings different interests, strengths, and possibilities,” said Kaitlyn Da Silva, Pathways to Care Co-Lead and LHEARN Supervisor. “Our goal is to help them see that there is a place for those talents in health care, while continuing to find new ways to make these experiences accessible to more students.”

With demand growing, LHEARN is exploring expanded programming for 2027. Community partnerships and philanthropic support could help more young people participate.

These connections also extend beyond the hospital. Through its partnership with Ladder 2 Rise, Lakeridge Health welcomed 25 students to Pathways to Care and recently partnered on RISE Day, another opportunity for youth to explore careers and meet health care professionals.

“Durham’s future health workforce is in our classrooms today,” said Dr. Randy Wax, Chief of Staff. “Working with our partners, we’re helping students explore their interests, build connections and see a future in health care close to home. We want them to see Lakeridge Health as a place to grow their careers and make a difference in their own community.”

New Member of the Police Service Board Regional Chair Kevin Ashe

The Durham Regional Police Service Board welcomes Durham Regional Chair Kevin Ashe to the Police Service Board as Head of Durham Regional Council.

“I am honoured to have the opportunity to serve once again as a member of the Police Service Board,” said Regional Chair Ashe. “Community safety is an important priority for the citizens of our Region, and I look forward to helping position the DRPS to continue to deliver excellent policing services across all of Durham as a member of the Board.”

“Mr. Ashe’s knowledge and experience will add to the strength of the Board’s governance and oversight,” added Chair of the Board, Shaun Collier. “Having already served on the Board for a decade, he understands the importance of policing as a pillar of community wellbeing and prosperity, and his ideas and perspectives will support the Board in fulfilling its important responsibilities.”

Mr. Ashe was a member of the Police Service Board from 1997 to 2003 and from 2018 to 2022, serving as Vice-Chair for two years and Chair for an additional two years. He will replace Board Member Willie Woo who served on the Board as former Regional Chair Henry’s designate. The Board extends its gratitude to Mr. Woo for his exceptional contributions since his appointment in 2022.

TAKE THE THREE SECOND TEST!!!

Turn to any page in this newspaper.
Look at any ad for the count of three. Then turn page.
Tell me what you remember of that ad or page?
Can you recall product?
Can you recall phone number?
Can you recall what was advertised?
Can you recall address?
Can you recall company name?
Can you recall any pictures?
Can you recall any logos?

If little or nothing. You just proven why BUS ADVERTISING, BILL BOARDS ELECTRONIC ROAD SIDE SIGNS do not work.

WHY: - Normally when people are driving they are constantly looking around for all kind of safety reasons. Three seconds tends to be the rule for determining decision making. When looking at a bus. People look for safety first then what is actually on the bus. This compounded with the fragmented artwork due to windows and doors. The average person does not truly see the ad. They notice a bus in motion and maybe the color. Not the messages on it. Much like when you turned the page. You could retain some minute detail but not the whole message.

On a billboard. The key to advertising is simplicity. More than two points. The readers will not be able to retain any information. Therefore the sign will be rendered useless.

Electronic road side signs - Same principle. The high color and light affect in many cases even though appealing. It is also very confusing for the mind to retain any information.

Priority is the wow factor of the brightness, (one second). Then word recognition (two seconds). Finally, understanding of what the eye has just witnessed.

These form of advertising do not generally work and can be very costly. The key or purpose for these forms of media to have an impact. It relies on respecting the three second rule.

What this means is that the message has to be contained and clear as for bus advertising. Many try to put to much in a bus that has windows and moving doors. This making the ads look like a badly composed ransom note.

For Electronic road side signs and signs in general. Most advertisers again do not respect the three second rule.

Drivers, walkers do not sit there and read signs. They glance and move on. If a service or product is needed. It is highly speculated that they will not have a pen and paper ready to take down the advertisers information.

Online advertising/social media. Online/social media advertisement operates on a three click rule. If your viewer fails to go to the particular interest in three clicks. Viewer will just move on and or ‘x’ it off. Look at the number of ‘Likes’.

What is the answer?

Newsprint advertising has gone through some major transformations in the past 15 years. Those, that failed to adjust have fallen, declared bankruptcy.

The bottom line is that newsprint advertising has decades of proven success.

WHY: People like to have information in their hands. Easy access and simple. Anyone can turn a page. Not everyone can find an online site and or afford internet.

Information in news print is reliable and comes from a source known in the community.

Social media has become nothing short of a public toilet. Everyone uses and abuses it. From entities pretending to be reputable companies to the many fraudsters.

Online information has become unreliable and manipulative as it plays on people’s weaknesses.

There is no value in no cost. With news print. You pay for a subscription to be assured to have reliable information.

Advertisers, they get what they pay for.

VALUE. As newsprint may change but never go away