



*Working for Municipalities*

# Heads UP



keeping members informed.

September 30, 2009

## Ontario's Roads Safer as of October 26, 2009

The new distracted driving law will have motorists in Ontario using hands-free devices only while driving effective **October 26, 2009.**

The ban begins with a three-month period where police will focus on educating drivers before issuing tickets on **February 1, 2010.**

The new law will make it illegal for drivers to talk, text, type, dial or email using hand-held cell phones and other hand-held communications and entertainment devices. It will also prohibit viewing a display screen unrelated to the driving task such as laptops or DVD players while driving.

To accommodate drivers in transport-related industries (school buses, taxis, couriers) and public service workers (transit and highway maintenance workers) who rely on the use of certain types of wireless devices and display screen technologies in the performance of day-to-day operations, **Ontario is granting a three year phase-out period for commercial use of two-way radios, including mobile and CB radios, to allow for hands-free technologies to be developed.**

The new law will not affect mobile data terminals, logistical tracking devices and dispatching devices. They will be exempt for commercial and public service vehicle drivers who are engaged in the performance of their duties.

Hand-mikes and portable radios such as walkie-talkies may be used in a hands-free mode allowing drivers to use a lapel button or other hands-free application as long as the hand-mike or walkie-talkies are not held while driving.

The Ontario Good Roads Association will continue to update our members and post information as it becomes available to [www.ogra.org](http://www.ogra.org).

For a complete look at Ontario's new road laws and for quick facts, visit the Ministry of Transportation website at <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/>

If you have any questions, please contact us at 905-795-2555 or [info@ogra.org](mailto:info@ogra.org).

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