

Overhaul of Driving Regulations?



More and more Canadians are not taking driver training courses before getting behind the wheel of a passenger vehicle. Recently I was made aware that there are people getting vehicles, insurance and registration and not even bothering to get a driver's license. To legally operate a motor vehicle in North America you have to have a valid driver's license. These two trends are extremely scary and dangerous.

Yes, driver training is costly. Does it make you a better driver? Yes, it does. And if you go with a known school, insurance discounts can be available. Between the ages of 18 to 65, the age range most likely to be involved in a fatal accident or injury accident is 25-34. The causes range from distracted, under the influence and speed. Those are the big 3 causes. And to make it even more confusing, no two provinces or territories in Canada have the same training program.

Having said that driver training does make you a better driver, there are still some major things that aren't addressed within ANY of the driver manuals within Canada. There is no mention of how to drive beside, around or behind a commercial vehicle. If you have never been in a commercial vehicle, and let's admit it how many have, you have no idea what they see, what they don't see, what it takes to stop a commercial truck and how physics plays a big part in their ability to stop.

We have laws for everything else in this country, why is driver training not mandatory? Why don't any of the training manuals (or online courses) have videos showing passenger vehicle drivers exactly what commercial drivers deal with on a day to day basis? Why don't you need a special license designation for driving a 48 foot motor home? We have a lot of loopholes in our driving culture and they need to be closed. One death is too many.

Initiatives are popping up across the country, commercial trucking schools are trying to reach passenger drivers on what to do, cities are coming up with zero initiatives to be accident free. Accident is described in the dictionary as: an undesirable or unfortunate happening that occurs unintentionally and usually results in harm, injury, damage, or loss; casualty; mishap. So, technically, it's not an accident when you text and drive and crash, you, by choice chose to no watch the road because the phone is more important.

No one likes more laws, taking away our freedom or steering us to a different course of action, but since we seem to be having some issues with common sense and vehicles, maybe we need to overhaul our driving culture and start again with a better version of what we have now.