

IMMEDIATE ROADSIDE PROHIBITION AMENDMENTS TO THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT

Amendments to The Highway Traffic Act would introduce new, more serious sanctions for impaired drivers, which will complement those already in place.

'Warn' (blood alcohol content of .05 to .08) on a roadside screening device, breathalyzer or blood test:

- vehicle impoundment for three, seven or 30 days for first, second or third and subsequent offences (new);
- monetary penalty of at least \$200 escalating to \$400, with amounts to be set by regulation (new);
- ignition interlock system, mandatory on the third offence (new);
- driver's licence suspension of three days on the first offence, escalating up to 60 days (existing);
- referral to an Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM) program if there have been two or more violations within 10 years (existing); and
- \$50 driver's licence reinstatement fee (existing).

'Fail' (blood alcohol content over 0.08) or refusal of a roadside screening device, for first-time offenders who have not caused injury or death:

- monetary penalty of at least \$500, with amounts to be set by regulation (new);
- mandatory use of an ignition interlock for one year (new);
- immediate three-month roadside driver's licence suspension (existing);
- vehicle impoundment for 30 or 60 days, for a fail or refusal respectively (existing);
- referral to an AFM assessment or remedial program (existing) and
- \$50 driver's licence reinstatement fee (existing).