

MADD Canada's mission is to stop impaired driving and to support victims of this violent crime. Victims/survivors have always been our #1 priority. As a result, since 1992 our organization has been developing victim/survivor support programs, advocating for changes to legislation, providing face-to-face and phone support for victims/survivors of impaired driving and educating the public about impaired driving. For this historical review, we have divided it into 6 categories:

1. Giving victims/survivors support
2. Honouring the memory of our loved ones and paying tribute to those injured
3. Changing legislation to give victims/survivors a voice
4. Giving victims/survivors the information they need
5. Providing training for volunteers and first responders
6. Educating the public on the impact of impaired driving on victims/survivors

Here are some of the highlights from over the years on a national and provincial level:

Giving victims/survivors support

1992 – The National Office begins to offer phone support for victims/survivors of impaired driving.

1993 – MADD Canada hosts the first annual National Victims' Weekend (now known as the National Conference for Victims of Impaired Driving) with keynote speakers and workshops to support those grieving and those injured. The first annual National Candlelight Vigil was held during the conference. These two events have grown and expanded over the past 20 years.

1993 – Local Chapters started holding Candlelight Vigils in their communities.

2006 - MADD Canada introduces a Youth Program for impaired driving victims 15-24 years of age at the annual National Conference for Impaired Driving Victims.

2008 -MADD Canada reaches out to victims/survivors in the Aboriginal community with the *Honouring our Spirit* program, a comprehensive package that includes victim services outreach video, posters, postcards, and discussion guide for First Nations and Métis victims/survivors of impaired driving.

2012 – MADD Canada changes its funding model for sponsorship to the National Conference for Victims of Impaired Driving. The National funding is now used to sponsor victims/survivors who are in the most urgent need of support and could benefit from attending the weekend. The greater focus is given to those who have never attended before. Youth between the ages of 15 to 24 receive special consideration for National funding even if they have attended more than

once.

2013 - With sensitivity to victims/survivors in mind, MADD Canada updates its policy on offenders applying to be volunteers.

2013 – MADD Canada’s first francophone Conference for Victims of Impaired Driving was held.

Honouring the memory of our loved ones and paying tribute to those injured

1992 – A permanent Memorial Wall with photos of victims/survivors was established in the National Office.

1999 – MADD Halifax Chapter began to provide White Cross Roadside Memorials for impaired driving victims in the Nova Scotia area.

1999 – A Candlelight Vigil Guide was created to assist Chapters and Community Leaders hosting a local vigil.

2003 - A Victim/Survivor Tribute section was added to the MADD Canada website.

2004 - MADD Canada signs an agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation for Roadside Memorial Signs for victims of impaired driving.

2005 – MADD Canada signs an agreement with the PEI Ministry of Transportation for Roadside Memorial Signs for victims of impaired driving.

2005 - A Victim Bursary is established for victims/survivors of impaired driving who have lost a loved one and are attending a university/college.

2007 - MADD Canada's Tribute Fund was established to pay tribute to and to honour the memory of victims of impaired driving.

2008 - Travelling Memorial Wall banners were created so that Chapters could educate the public about impaired driving victims/survivors.

2008 - MADD Canada participates in the first annual National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims and continues to participate annually.

2008 - The first of a series of victim story banners were produced to be displayed at National and local events. Each banner features photos and a story of an individual killed or injured in an impaired driving crash.

2009 - Photo buttons of victims were first produced for delegates to the annual National Conference for Victims of Impaired Driving.

2009 - MADD Canada revises its *Candlelight Vigil Guide* and replaces it with the *Memorial Event*

Guide that covers all types of memorial events.

2010 - MADD Chapters in New Brunswick unveiled MADD Canada's first Provincial Memorial Monument for victims of impaired driving.

2011 - MADD Chapters in Newfoundland unveiled the Newfoundland Memorial Monument for victims of impaired driving.

2012 - MADD Chapters in Nova Scotia unveiled the Nova Scotia Memorial Monument for victims of impaired driving.

2013 - MADD Canada hired an independent company to survey victims/survivors of impaired driving on the services they received from MADD Canada. The object of the survey was to measure their satisfaction and determine how our services could be enhanced.

2013 - MADD Canada is consulted by the RCMP on its proposed policy on disclosing victim information to RCMP Victim Services.

2013 - MADD Canada gives input to Justice Canada for the National Victims Bill of Rights.

Changing legislation to give victims/survivors a voice

MADD Canada has always been a strong voice when advocating for changes in federal and provincial legislation to stop impaired driving and to support victims of this violent crime. We are well known for our solid research to support our causes. We played an important role in all of these changes.

1996 – All victims/survivors are given the right to submit a Victim Impact Statement at trial describing the physical, emotional and financial toll the crime has had on them. The statement gives victims/survivors a voice in the criminal justice system, allowing them to explain to the court and the offender, in their own words, how they have been affected by the crime.

1999 – Under Bill C-79 victims/survivors and their families won the right to present a Victim Impact Statement at trial and any subsequent parole hearings.

1999 - .16 BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration) or higher becomes an aggravating factor in sentencing.

2000 - Maximum sentencing for impaired driving causing death is raised from 14 years to life.

2007 - A conditional sentence is a prison sentence of less than two years which the judge may allow the offender to serve in the community. After years of effort by MADD Canada, victims of impaired driving and others, the federal government enacted Bill C-9, which eliminated conditional sentences for violent crimes, including impaired driving causing death and impaired driving causing bodily harm. MADD Canada's efforts to limit conditional sentences included submitting a petition with 33,000 signatures to the government and commissioning a public opinion survey that found that most Canadians opposed

conditional sentences for violent crime.

2008 - MADD Canada successfully advocated for amendments to the Criminal Code to authorize police to conduct SFST (Standard Field Sobriety Testing) and DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) evaluations.

2008 - *Evidence to Contrary* defences were eliminated for impaired driving offences. These defences called the “Carter Defense” and the “Last Drink Defense” were commonly used to get an acquittal of drivers charged with impaired driving.

2010 -MADD Canada recommends a two-track approach to addressing the problem of the repeat and chronic drinking driver:

- Prevent individuals from becoming repeat and chronic offenders through early identification and intervention, including alcohol assessment, treatment and rehabilitation to address their drinking behavior, as well as licence suspensions, alcohol ignition interlocks, vehicle impoundment and forfeiture programs.
- For individuals with 4 or more *Criminal Code* convictions within 10 years, the Crown should pursue longer jail terms and other appropriate sanctions. Further, the Crown should pursue dangerous offender or long-term offender status for all convicted drinking drivers who meet the respective criteria.

2012 - MADD Canada releases its White Paper on sentencing. In consultation with its members, MADD Canada produced this Sentencing Framework which provides a range of appropriate sentences for those convicted of impaired driving causing death.

2012 - MADD Canada has its first “Mother’s Day March” in Ottawa and meets with MPs to enlist their support for its legislative initiatives, particularly Random Breath Testing (RBT).

2012 – MADD Canada supports Bill C-37, amending the *Offender’s Accountability for Victims Act* and increasing the victim fine surcharge to 30% of any fine imposed. This surcharge is imposed on those convicted of Criminal Code offences. It would also make the surcharge mandatory. If no fine is imposed, the legislation will set a minimum surcharge of \$100 for summary conviction offences and \$200 for indictable offences. Those amounts are double the former minimum charges.

2013 - MADD Canada successfully advocates for impaired driving victims/survivors to be eligible for Employment Insurance benefits.

2013 - MADD Canada successfully advocates for a mandatory victim surcharge being raised from 15% to 30%.

2013 - MADD Canada's volunteers met with MPs to inform them on the issues and ask them to call upon the Justice Minister to move forward with three recommendations which MADD Canada believes are vitally important to reducing the rate of impaired driving in Canada and more effectively dealing with offenders:

- The implementation of Random Breath Testing
- Tougher sentences for repeat impaired driving offenders
- Tougher sentences for offenders with BACs in excess of .16% (double the legal limit)

Giving victims/survivors the information they need

1992 – MADD Canada published “We Care”, a resource containing support information for victims/survivors of impaired driving.

1996 – A series of brochures with support information for victims/survivors (*Trauma, Loss and Bereavement/Coping with Life After Injury/ Understanding the Consequences of a Loved One’s Impaired Driving/ A Victim’s Guide to the Criminal Justice System*) was published and are also available in French.

1997 – MADD Canada launched madd.ca, its bilingual National website that includes material for victim/survivor support.

1999 – MADD Canada compiled *A Canadian Victims’ Resource Guide*.

2000 - MADD Canada created a lending library for victims/survivors of impaired driving.

2002 – *Holidays and Hope* – a victim support brochure was published in English and in French.

2009 - MADD Canada compiled *An Injury Resource Guide* to assist those injured to connect with local resources.

Providing training for volunteers and first responders

1996 – A weekend training session was developed to train volunteers to be Victim Advocates and support local victims/survivors in their community.

1999 – MADD Canada introduced its Death Notification Training program for first responders so that next of kin can be notified in a sensitive, compassionate way.

2000 – MADD Canada began to train volunteers to be Court Monitors. These volunteers go into the courts and track convictions and sentences on impaired driving cases. Personnel working in the court often know who the Court Monitor represents. When a Court Monitor sits in on an impaired driving case, judges know that MADD Canada is looking for a sentence that reflects the severity of the crime.

2004 - MADD Canada upgrades its Victim Advocate Training to Victim Services Level 2 training and launches Victim Services Level 1 Training online free for all volunteers. This online program enabled all volunteers to receive information on what victims/survivors go through and increase their sensitivity. It is also available in French.

2005 - MADD Canada launches a Court Monitoring online training program free for volunteers in English and French.

2006 - MADD Canada launches a Victim Impact Panel online training program free for volunteers.

2008 - MADD Canada's Death Notification Training for first responders was launched online through the Canadian Police Knowledge Network (CPKN).

2010 - *Change for the Better...Together* - a MADD Canada volunteer training video that includes information on victim/survivor services and support. (Also available in French).

2013 – MADD Canada conducts its first francophone Victim Services Volunteer Level 2 (VSV2) training.

Educating the public on the impact of impaired driving on victims/survivors

Since its inception, MADD Canada has produced countless public service announcements (PSAs) for TV, radio and print focusing on the devastating impact of impaired driving on victims/survivors who have had a loved one killed or who have been injured.

Every year hundreds of radio and TV interviews are done locally and nationally to educate the public that impaired driving is the number one criminal cause of death in Canada and inform them of the devastation it leaves behind.

Over the years, MADD Canada has produced many educational videos for Chapters, Community Leaders, impaired driving offender programs, educators, driving schools and various other community groups to use. Many of these videos include true stories and heart-wrenching victim testimonials and can be downloaded from our website. As well, victims/survivors are often featured on posters that are available for distribution locally.

Locally, MADD Canada members who are victims/survivors of impaired driving participate in Victim Impact Panels to help educate offenders.

MADD Canada has been giving ongoing support to the Springboard program, a voluntary group Substance Use program in Ontario for those convicted of impaired driving related charges and serving weekend intermittent sentences in two major institutions (in London and Toronto). Participants are selected based on strict screening criteria and must have no bodily harm connected with their impaired driving conviction. This program focuses on substance use, the impacts of impaired driving on self, victims, and society, as well as education and coping skills. In one of the sessions, victims of impaired driving who are members of MADD Canada Chapters provide the victim impact perspective to group participants.

We also contribute victim speakers and videos to the *Back on Track* program and other provincial DWI programs that are mandatory for convicted impaired drivers.

MADD Canada is also committed to educating youth about the dangers and impact of impaired driving. Thousands of students across Canada have seen our annual School Assembly Presentation that features victim testimonials. Research has shown that the victim testimonials have the most impact on changing youth behaviours regarding impaired driving.

In order to represent impaired driving victims, MADD Canada has been a long-time member of

the National Victims of Crime Committee for Justice Canada and sits on the committee for the annual National Victims of Crime Week.

In summary

MADD Canada's commitment to victim/survivor rights and support will always remain strong. One-on-one support will remain a top priority as well as training our volunteers to give outstanding support in their communities.

We will continue to advocate for changes federally and provincially to drive down the numbers of deaths and injuries as a result of impaired driving.

We will also continue to develop programming and materials to better support victims of this violent crime.

With our strong network of volunteers across the country, MADD Canada will continue to be there to help victims through their darkest days and give them hope for the future.