



Slow Down Move Over Laws

Issue

- Waste collection workers have one of the most dangerous jobs.
- Over 3,000 curb-side collection vehicles are on the road every day carrying over 4,500 private and public workers who ensure our communities are clean and safe.
- Many of these workers are on and off or in and out of collection trucks potentially hundreds of times a day, with cars and trucks passing them.
- Careless driving by motorists puts waste and recycling collectors at risk every day.
- However unlike other roadside workers (police, paramedics, police, and tow truck drivers), waste collection workers and snow plow operators are not provided the same protections.¹
- Several private member's bills have been introduced to rectify the current situation but none have passed.
- The latest [private member's bill](#) seeks to impose great fines for of a collision that seriously injures or kills a pedestrian, a cyclist, a mobility device user, a roadway worker, an emergency responder outside their motor vehicle or another individual listed in the Bill. The proposed legislation does not include waste management collection workers.
- The Ontario Chapter of Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is looking to work with Ontario associations to drive awareness and ensure Ontario laws provide waste management collection workers with the same protections as other roadside workers.

Slow Down, Move Over (Slow Down to Get Around) Laws

- A major campaign was initiated in the United States by the SWANA and the National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) to provide waste collection workers with the same protections other roadside workers are provided – specially to require to slow down and safely change lanes when approaching solid waste and recycling vehicles from behind. The campaign has been successful in establishing laws in:
 - [Michigan, 2009](#)
 - [Alabama, 2013](#)
 - [Wisconsin, 2013](#)
 - [West Virginia, 2014](#)
 - [Florida, 2014](#)
 - [Virginia, 2015](#)
 - [Georgia, 2015](#)
 - [Indiana, 2015](#)
 - [North Carolina, 2015](#)
 - New Jersey, 2016
 - New York, 2016
 - Oklahoma, 2016
 - Virginia, 2016
 - Illinois, 2017
 - Iowa, 2017
 - Kentucky, 2017
 - Missouri, 2017
 - Maryland, 2018
 - Nebraska, 2018
 - Pennsylvania, 2018

¹ See section 159 of [Ontario's Highway Traffic Act, 1990](#).

- Ohio, 2018
 - California, 2019
- This campaign also involves reminding motorists to drive carefully near waste and recycling collection vehicles.
- In 2014, [British Columbia](#) changed to simplify its Slow Down Move Over law to make it safer for all roadside workers including waste /recycling collection vehicles. The law was touted as it provided a much more simple and effective message for all drivers and afforded the same protection to all workers in their workplace.

Ontario

- Several organizations in Ontario have been pushing for similar legislation in Ontario including the SWANA (Ontario Chapter), the Ontario Waste Management Association, the Ontario Road Builders Association and the Ontario Good Roads Association.
- The [Township of Warwick, the Town of Goderich, the Municipality of Huron East and the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe](#) have all sent motions to the Ministry of Transportation requesting an amendment to Ontario's Highway Traffic Act to include a requirement for vehicles to slow down and provide right of way to waste/recycling collection vehicles, in the interest of waste/recycling worker and citizen road user safety. The [City of Hamilton](#) sent a similar request in 2015 and the [Niagara Region](#) has also participated in events supporting this initiative.
- Michael Harris, the former MPP for Kitchener-Conestoga introduced a [private member's bill](#) to address the issue but it was not passed.
- This private member's bill did receive media attention:
 - **Ontario MPP wants to broaden 'slow down, move over' law** - <http://globalnews.ca/news/3429436/ontario-mpp-wants-to-broaden-slow-down-move-over-law/>
 - **Ontario's waste management association gets behind "Slow down, Move over" bill by Tory MPP** - <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/7290278-ontario-s-waste-management-association-gets-behind-slow-down-move-over-bill-by-tory-mpp/>
 - **Harris proposes Slow Down, Move Over to protect waste management and construction workers on roads** - <https://observerextra.com/2017/05/04/harris-proposes-slow-move-protect-waste-management-construction-workers-roads/>
 - **Slow down, move over rules urged for garbage trucks, snow plows** - <https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/6911861-slow-down-move-over-rules-urged-for-garbage-trucks-snow-plows/>
 - **Harris proposes Slow Down, Move Over to protect waste management workers on roads** - <https://www.pressreader.com/canada/the-woolwich-observer/20170504/281492161221601>
- The official response from the Ontario's Ministry of Transportation has been that Ontario's Highway Traffic Act "reflects the need of emergency vehicles and tow truck drivers to work in dangerous, high speed and uncontrolled road side situations that are generally not representative of those faced by other users of flashing lights."
- A new Ontario private member's bill has been introduced by the MPP for University – Rosedale, Jessica Bell. [Bill 62, Protecting Vulnerable Road Users Act, 2018](#), amends the Highway Traffic Act to provide additional legal consequences for a collision that seriously injures or kills a pedestrian, a cyclist, a mobility device user, a roadway worker, an emergency responder outside their motor vehicle or another individual listed in the Bill. Unfortunately it does not include waste management collection worker.
- The Ontario Chapter of SWANA has reached out to MPP Bell in December of 2018 to explain the current gap in the private member's bill and seek amendment.