

## Backgrounder

### DON'T CRASH THE PARTY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

- Combined use of cannabis and alcohol increase the risk of collision.
  
- 2005 Police Attended Collision Statistics
  - Every week in BC, impaired drivers kill on average 2 people and injure over 60 people.)
  - Alcohol was a contributing factor in over 28 per cent of all police-reported motor vehicle fatal collisions. (Source: 2005 ICBC Drinking & Driving Penalties)
  - 126 people were killed in alcohol-related collisions, up from 102 in 2004. (Source: 2005 ICBC Drinking & Driving Penalties)
  - Approximately 3,400 people were injured, up from 3,200 in 2004. (Source: 2005 ICBC Drinking & Driving Penalties)
  
- Canadian Addiction Survey conducted by the CCSA (released in December 2006)
  - 4.8% of drivers responding to the CAS survey reported driving within two hours of using cannabis in the previous 12 months, a figure which has more than doubled since comparable studies done in 1988 and 1989.
  - Males were 3.6 times more likely than females to drive under the influence of cannabis.
  - Among those who reported driving under the influence of cannabis in the last year, the mean number of self-reported occurrences was 24.5.
  - People who reported driving under the influence of cannabis also reported consuming higher-than-average amounts of alcohol. This is a significant point, since combining cannabis with even small amounts of alcohol significantly increases the observed level of impairment.
  
- Surveys have shown that, compared to all provinces, British Columbians were the most against impaired driving yet one in five British Columbians admits to driving after drinking. (Source: TIRF Road Safety Monitor 2006)
  
- 2006 Operation Impact impaired driving campaign reported 178 criminal drinking offences in BC between October 6 and 9 (source: RCMP media statement).