

## Driving While Impaired Can Cost Nearly \$6,300

*From fines to towing and storage fees to increases in auto insurance premiums, a CAA-Quebec study puts the cost of a first-time impaired driving conviction at close to \$6,300.*

([PRWEB](#)) December 5, 2004 -- According to a study conducted by CAA-Quebec, an impaired driving conviction can cost nearly \$6,300 -- and that's just the first year! In this festive season, CAA-Quebec has published figures that will no doubt encourage even more motorists to opt for a driving service or other means of getting home safely.

“Driving under the influence not only puts your life and the lives of others in danger, it's also a great way to lighten your wallet!” says Yvon Lapointe, director of traffic safety and automotive research for CAA Quebec.

From towing and storage fees to the waiver needed to cross the U.S. border, not to mention legal fees and huge increases in auto insurance premiums, CAA-Quebec calculates that, in the 12 months following a first-time impaired driving conviction, a 40-year-old man living in the Montreal area and with a previously good driving record can expect to shell out close to \$6,300 in various costs as a direct consequence.

“For a 20-year-old, such a conviction can spell financial disaster because of the huge impact on insurance rates,” Mr. Lapointe says. “CAA-Quebec has found that a 20-year-old male who owns the same kind of vehicle (2004 Honda Accord) as the above-mentioned driver will see his premium jump from \$5,872 to \$12,989, not counting the current 5% tax.”

And CAA-Quebec is only pointing out the financial ramifications for the first 12 months following a conviction. A motorist convicted of impaired driving will suffer the consequences of his or her actions for several years to come; insurance premiums, for one, will remain elevated for four to six years. But the indirect consequences -- the inconvenience caused by loss of driving privileges, having a criminal record, and so on -- are equally sobering.

The message is clear, says Mr. Lapointe: use a driving service, take a cab, hop on a bus, or ask your host for a bed. “You'll save close to \$6,300 and maybe a few lives as well -- maybe even your own!”

A not-for-profit organization active in traffic safety since its foundation in 1904, CAA-Quebec provides a wide range of automotive, travel, residential and financial services to 800,000 members in Quebec.

(For details, see table at following link:)

<http://www.caaquebec.com/en/popup/index.asp?Url=/uploads/en/comm/041202Drivingwhileimpaired.pdf>

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