

DISTRACTED DRIVER LEGISLATION BY PROVINCE\*

Province/ Territory	Prohibition on hand-held devices	Prohibition on hands-free devices	Substantially similar or same as ICBC "one touch" requirement	Restrictions on other distractions
<a href="#">British Columbia</a> January 1, 2010	All hand-held electronic equipment is banned.	Novice drivers are not allowed to use hands-free electronic equipment.	Yes, device is allowed if it is within easy reach of the driver and voice activated or "requires only one touch in order to initiate, accept or end a call."	Careless driving legislation; Television sets cannot be visible to the driver.
<a href="#">Alberta</a> September 1, 2011	Holding, viewing or manipulating a communications device or a hand-held or wireless electronic device is banned.	None.	Yes, device is allowed if it is "not held in the driver's hand and is activated by voice or a single touch to the device."	With exceptions (for example, GPS systems fixed to the car), electronic screens cannot be visible to the driver; Reading, writing, hygiene or any other activity that distracts a driver.
<a href="#">Saskatchewan</a> January 1, 2010	All hand-held communication equipment is banned.	Novice drivers are not allowed to use hands-free communication equipment.	Yes, device is allowed if it is equipped with " <b>One-touch</b> activation of a speakerphone feature on a cellphone placed within easy reach."	Careless driving legislation; Electronic screens visible to the driver must be attached to the car and can only be used to aid the driver with the task of driving.
<a href="#">Manitoba</a> July 15, 2010	All hand-held electronic devices are banned.	None.	Yes, device is allowed if it is able to be operated by "voice commands or one touch."	Imprudent driving legislation.
<a href="#">Ontario</a> October 26, 2009	All hand-held wireless communication devices are banned.	None.	Yes, device is allowed if it is within easy reach, and be positioned in such a way that you can view it without adjusting the driver's seat or driving position. May push a button to "activate or deactivate the device's "hands-free" function."	Careless driving legislation; With exceptions (for example, GPS systems), electronic screens cannot be visible to the driver.
<a href="#">Quebec</a> April 1, 2008	All hand-held devices that include a telephone function are banned.	Hands-free devices that include a telephone function are permitted.	No, based on definition of "hand-held" does not appear to allow touching device even with one-touch capabilities.	Careless driving legislation.
<a href="#">New Brunswick</a> April 1, 2011	All hand-held electronic devices are banned.	None.	Yes, devices are allowed if they are "hands-free or single-touch."	

\*Prepared November 9, 2011. This information is subject to change and was provided for informational purposes only. It was not intended as legal advice. For specific and/or current information please click on the hyperlinked websites for each province.

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<u>Nova Scotia</u> April 1, 2008	All hand-held cellular phones are banned; Text messaging is banned on any communications device.	None.	No, based on definition of “hand-held” does not appear to allow touching device even with one-touch capabilities.	Careless driving legislation; Screens cannot be visible to the driver.
<u>Prince Edward Island</u> January 23, 2010	All hand-held wireless communication devices are banned	None.	Yes, devices are allowed if “you can add a tool to your cellular, BlackBerry or other communication device to allow you to use it with one touch.”	Careless driving legislation; Operational televisions cannot be in any position within a vehicle.
<u>Newfoundland &amp; Labrador</u> 2002	All hand-held cellular phones are banned; Text messaging is banned on any communications device.	None.	No, based on definition of “hand-held” does not appear to allow touching device even with one-touch capabilities.	Programming GPS when car is in motion is banned; Careless driving legislation.
<u>Yukon Territory</u> April 1, 2011	Hand-held devices used for talking, texting, or emailing are prohibited.	Graduated Driver’s license holders are not allowed to use: hand-held electronic devices for talking, texting or emailing or any hands-free devices.	No, based on definition of “hand-held” does not appear to allow touching device even with one-touch capabilities.	Exceptions: Citizen’s band (CB) and other simple push-to-talk two-way radios may be used.
<u>Northwest Territories</u> *January 1, 2012	All hand-held electronic devices are banned.	None.	No, based on definition of “hand-held” does not appear to allow touching device even with one-touch capabilities.	Careless driving legislation.
Nunavut				

For information about fines and demerit points by province, please click here.

[http://ccmta.ca/english/pdf/strid\\_distraction\\_canadian\\_fines\\_and\\_demerit\\_points\\_april\\_2011.pdf](http://ccmta.ca/english/pdf/strid_distraction_canadian_fines_and_demerit_points_april_2011.pdf)

Please also note that in addition to provincial offences, distracted driving can also result in a criminal charge under the Section 249. (1) of the Criminal Code of Canada.

<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-46/page-106.html#h-82>

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