



## Office of the Auditor General of Ontario

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### More Oversight of Commercial Vehicles Needed to Improve Road Safety in Ontario:

The Ministry of Transport's commercial vehicle safety and enforcement program has missed key opportunities to improve safety on Ontario roads, Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk says in her 2019 Annual Report, released today.

"Ontario ranks among the safest provinces for overall road safety," Lysyk said after her Report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. "However, it has had higher fatality and injury rates for commercial vehicles than Canada as a whole and the United States in most of the years between 2008 and 2017."

Following are some excerpts from the report, the complete report may be found [Here](#)

- **Despite a high risk of collisions, the Ministry does not sanction municipalities.**  
We analyzed the 50 largest Ontario municipalities that operate commercial vehicles and found that on average, the collision violation rate for these municipalities was almost 250% higher than the average collision violation rate for all carriers travelling a similar amount of kilometres. Though the Ministry issues warning letters, carries out facility audits and conducts interviews in response to high violation rates, we found that the Ministry does not impose sanctions on municipalities—such as suspending or cancelling the registration of municipalities, regardless of how poor their safety record is. Municipalities, therefore, can operate under poor safety ratings with few consequences and little incentive to improve.
- **Most roadside inspections are performed on provincial highways, allowing "local haulers" to avoid inspection.**
- **The majority of carriers have not had a vehicle inspected in the past two years, including carriers with a poor collision history.**
- **The Ministry allows some carriers with a poor history of collisions to test their own employees for commercial vehicle driver licences.**
- **There is no mandatory drug and alcohol testing for commercial vehicle drivers.**

#### Ministry of Transportation;

- We agree with all the recommendations and are committed to implementing them as quickly as possible.
- 'a comprehensive review of the Commercial Vehicle Operators Registration (CVOR) program as well as a program review of our commercial vehicle enforcement operations.'

In consideration of the Auditor General Report and Ministry of Transportation response, municipalities should anticipate increased enforcement safety campaigns being conducted as well as increased scrutiny of municipal CVOR Carrier Safety Ratings, Facility Audits and Safety Violation Rates.