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For Immediate Release

**Vast majority of Canadians want effective
impaired driving laws and appropriate sentences**
-- *MADD Canada in Ottawa urging Minister and MPs 'to make a difference'*--

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada) is in Ottawa today and tomorrow to meet with Justice Minister Vic Toews as well as a number of MPs. The organization arrives on Parliament Hill with its federal policy agenda and the message that Canadians are looking for action in the fight against the crime of impaired driving.

“The vast majority of Canadians want more effective impaired driving laws,” says Karen Dunham, National President of MADD Canada. “We look to this Parliament to begin the necessary work in introducing new measures that will reduce the number of Canadians being killed and injured as a result of impaired driving.”

“With this minority Parliament, it will take the political will of all Parliamentarians to achieve results and we’re asking the Justice Minister and all MPs to make a difference on this number one cause of criminal death in our country,” says Mrs. Dunham.

MADD Canada, today, released the findings of a recent national survey that show Canadians are very supportive of eliminating conditional sentences for violent impaired driving crime, and for introducing new drug impaired driving legislation. The SES survey found that 89% of Canadians believe that those who drink, drive and kill another person as a result of an impaired driving crash should receive jail time; and, 81% of Canadians would support new police measures to apprehend and charge drug impaired drivers.

Aside from these two policy initiatives, MADD Canada is also calling on MPs to consider new legislation that will narrow ‘evidence to the contrary’ defences, provide police with the authority to demand a breath sample at a crash scene where there has been a fatality, and introduce a new *Criminal Code* offence at 0.05% BAC.

“Our policy initiatives will reduce the incidents of impaired driving – combined, they will save lives and prevent injuries,” says Andrew Murie, MADD Canada’s CEO. He explains, “There are many different types of drinking drivers – there are social drinkers, binge drinkers, hardcore alcohol dependents and there are youth. Federally, there must be a comprehensive approach taken to fighting the crime of impaired driving in order to impact all types of drinking drivers. MPs can do this by introducing a series of measures that will rethink *Criminal Code* offences for the crime, enhance police enforcement, and address key judicial issues that are making a mockery of our country’s justice system.”

“Viable solutions are known and available, and we are looking for the leadership from Minister Toews and the cooperation of all MPs to make this happen,” says Mr. Murie.

The SES national survey questions can be found on the MADD Canada website. Detailed information on MADD Canada’s policies can also be found on the website.

For further information visit www.madd.ca or for interviews while in Ottawa:

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