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Alberta urged to toughen drunk driving laws

The province isn't doing enough to keep drunk drivers off the roads, especially repeat offenders, the Alberta Motor Association says.

CBC News



"There are some obvious pieces that are missing," association spokesman Scott Wilson told CBC News.

"You might have an individual who needs to stop drinking," he said. "There needs to be follow-up to make sure the person has done that - maybe it should be Alberta Health Services."

Another problem, Wilson said, is the high number of people continually pulled over by police but only given a 24-hour suspension, usually because their blood alcohol level isn't high enough to secure a conviction.

"Police will rely on 24-hour suspensions, and these are good things, they are swift and sure punishment to get somebody off the road," Wilson said. "But currently you can amass them without consequence in Alberta. If you get one or two of these things - or three or four - there is no additional consequence on you as a driver."

Wilson suggests the 24-hour suspension be replaced with a driving ban or fine.

With files from Trisha Estabrooks

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