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# 'Irresponsible' Tobin begins 3-year sentence

## Ex-premier's son killed friend while driving drunk

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OTTAWA

Jack Tobin, the son of former Newfoundland and Labrador premier Brian Tobin, was sentenced to three years in prison Wednesday for killing his friend while driving drunk. He was also banned from driving for seven years.

Ontario Court Justice Lise Maisonneuve called Tobin's behaviour "gravely irresponsible" before sentencing him.

Following the judge's decision, Tobin stood arm in arm with his father, mother, brother and sister. Police allowed the family a few moments of privacy before he was taken away to begin serving his sentence.

Tobin, 25, was cavorting in his rented pickup truck on the ice-coated roof of a parking garage in Ottawa's ByWard Market in the early hours of Christmas Eve after a night of partying and heavy drinking.

Alex Zolpis, 24, and another friend, Owen Seay, fell from the truck as Tobin turned doughnuts.

Zolpis was crushed under the vehicle and Seay narrowly avoided death.

Tobin had consumed more than



Julie Oliver, Postmedia News

**Jack Tobin, left, arrives at court with his family Wednesday for sentencing in the killing of his friend while driving drunk.**

twice the legal limit of alcohol.

Two breath readings taken at the Ottawa police headquarters registered 190 and 175 milligrams in 100 millilitres of blood respectively. The legal limit is 80 in 100.

Zolpis's fiancée, Emma Roberts, didn't think the sentence was tough enough.

"I'll never be satisfied. Alex is gone. He was killed by a drunk driver who drove extremely recklessly," she said. "We're left to pick up the pieces. I'm left without my partner. Alex's par-

ents are left without their only son. Meaghan is left without her brother," said Roberts, who worried about the time Tobin would actually serve before being paroled.

"I am satisfied that it's a federal sentence, however, I'm personally not satisfied with the amount of time. In all likelihood, Jack Tobin will most likely serve one-third of his sentence and since he got three years, he will likely serve one year in jail. Jack Tobin gets one year in jail and Alex gets his life lost."

Zolpis's father Ed told the Ottawa Citizen he thinks his family accepts Tobin's apology. He declined to comment on the sentence.

"It is a tragedy for everyone. We just hope that people will now recognize the seriousness of drinking and driving and take it a little bit more seriously and avoid injuring themselves or others," he said.

In her carefully reasoned decision, Maisonneuve considered that Tobin's driving occurred over a short period of time, he didn't have any plans to take the vehicle onto a roadway and he was extremely remorseful.

Maisonneuve said it was "bizarre and unexpected" that the truck's door opened, causing an intoxicated Zolpis to fall out. However, she found the risk posed to the people in the truck by Tobin's driving was not unforeseeable.

"He is a good son and a good brother who has made a serious mistake. He's going to pay the price of that mistake," said Brian Tobin outside of court.