

From Research to Reform: *The Rating the Provinces and Territories Project* in Canada

Professor Robert Solomon, MADD Canada

The purpose of the project is to provide each province and territory with an individualized legislative agenda that will minimize impaired driving deaths, and to encourage them to enact it. The project is based on an eleven year research-advocacy collaboration, involving a research team from the Faculty of Law at The University of Western Ontario and the National Office of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada). The project has proven to be a very effective catalyst for progressive legislation. However, due to countervailing factors, little progress has been made in reducing the overall number and percentage of impaired driving deaths in Canada since the late 1990s. Thus, the project appears to have prevented impaired driving deaths from rising.

The presentation will begin with background information on MADD Canada, the constitutional framework within which the project operates and Canada's impaired driving record. This will be followed by a discussion of the evolution and elements of *The Rating the Provinces and Territories Project*. I will then outline in detail the areas in which legislative progress has and has not been made. The next section of the presentation sets out the lessons learned from the project's successes and failures over the past 11 years. I will then turn to the countervailing factors that have prevented significant improvements in Canada's impaired driving record. In the conclusion, I will discuss the anticipated next steps in *The Rating the Provinces and Territories Project*.