

Jurisdictional Scan

Below is a summary of Canadian jurisdictions where tow trucks are regulated and/or educational campaigns that exist to deter predatory behaviour by tow truck operators.

Jurisdictional Scan of Canadian Municipalities

Province / Municipality	Legislation	Section	Penalty	Educational Campaigns
British Columbia	Motor Vehicle Act [RSBC 1996] Chapter 318	<p>Tow vehicle licences</p> <p>28.1 The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia may refuse to issue</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) a licence and corresponding number plates, or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) a permit</p> <p>in respect of a tow vehicle that is used to render assistance to vehicles that are not owned by the owner of the tow vehicle, if the owner of the tow vehicle is not, in respect of the tow vehicle, insured under a policy of the type commonly known as a Comprehensive Garage Policy, issued under the Insurance (Motor Vehicle) Act.</p>	\$167	Unknown
Edmonton, Alberta	Bylaw 5590 Traffic Bylaw	<p>2(aa.2) “tow truck” means a vehicle operated on a highway to provide one of the following services: towing, moving, or recovering motor vehicles that are damaged, disabled, abandoned, tagged, or ticketed, and for greater certainty, includes vehicles used for the provision of ancillary towing services such as traffic control and the solicitation of tow truck services.</p> <p>Tow Trucks</p> <p>80(1) A person operating a tow truck shall not attend on the scene of a damaged, disabled, abandoned, tagged or ticketed vehicle on a highway unless previously requested to do so by an owner or driver of the vehicle or by a peace officer.</p> <p>(2) For the purpose of this section any individual or corporation referred to on or by a tow truck, whether directly or indirectly, is presumed to have caused or permitted the town [sic] truck to attend.</p>	\$250	Know Before the Tow: Towing Rights in Alberta

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Saskatchewan	The Traffic Safety Act, T-18.1 The Vehicle Equipment Regulations, 1987, V-2.1 Reg 10	<p>2(1) (uu) "tow truck" means a motor vehicle used exclusively for towing or rendering assistance to another vehicle suffering from a defect or disability in its means of motion; (uu.1) "towed mobile equipment" means a prescribed vehicle or prescribed equipment; (vv) "towing vehicle" means the lead motor vehicle in a combination of vehicles that draws, pulls or tows any other vehicle or vehicles in that combination of vehicles.</p> <p>(7) A tow truck must be fitted with one or more beacons that are either amber or amber and blue.</p>	Not specified	Unknown
Manitoba	Vehicle Equipment Safety and Inspection Regulation	<p>Towed items</p> <p>2.9(1) In this section, "towed item" means anything, except a trailer or agricultural equipment, that is towed on a highway by a vehicle or an animal and includes a vehicle (including towed infrastructure equipment) and equipment or machinery of any kind.</p> <p>2.9(2) Subject to any conditions set out in this section or elsewhere in this regulation, the following equipment must be present on a towed item and is prescribed as required equipment for the purpose of the Act and this regulation:</p> <p><i>[lengthy technical requirements are included here which indicate the following: lamps; reflex reflectors; service brake system; and wheels. Specifics can be located in the regulation.]</i></p> <p>2.9(3) All lamp assemblies and reflectors that are required equipment under this section must comply with CMVSS standards, and a non-OEM lamp must display SAE/DOT markings and the appropriate lamp type coding (see Appendix 1 at the end of section 6 of Part 1 of the Schedule).</p> <p>2.9(4) Where the use of an equivalent reflective marking instead of a reflector is permitted under this section, the marking must be of one of the following types:</p> <p><i>[Specifics can be located in the regulation itself but the types include: individual patches of reflective tape and continuous pieces of reflective tape.]</i></p>	Not specified	Unknown

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Ontario	Towing and Storage Safety and Enforcement Act, 2021, S.O. 2021, c. 26, Sched. 3	<p>Collision Scenes</p> <p>Restriction on provision of towing services at collision</p> <p>38 (1) No tow truck driver or tow operator shall provide or offer to provide towing services, or park or stop a tow truck, on a highway within 200 metres of,</p> <p>(a) the scene of a collision or apparent collision; or</p> <p>(b) a motor vehicle involved in a collision. 2023, c. 9, Sched. 36, s. 22.</p> <p>Exception</p> <p>(2) Subsection (1) does not apply with respect to a tow truck driver who is at the scene of a collision at the request of a police officer, inspector or person involved in the collision. 2023, c. 9, Sched. 36, s. 22.</p> <p>Restricted towing zones</p> <p>(3) Nothing in subsection (2) authorizes a tow truck driver or any other person with the care, charge or control of a tow truck to provide or offer to provide services in a restricted towing zone if the tow operator is not authorized to provide towing services in that zone. 2023, c. 9, Sched. 36, s. 22.</p> <p>Compliance with directions at collision scene</p> <p>39 (1) Every tow truck driver shall comply with any reasonable direction given by a police officer, inspector or firefighter who is present at the scene of a collision. 2023, c. 9, Sched. 36, s. 22.</p> <p>Same</p> <p>(2) Every tow truck driver shall comply with a direction of a police officer or inspector who is present at the scene of a collision to,</p> <p>(a) leave the scene of the collision; or</p> <p>(b) stay at least 200 metres away from the scene for such time as the police officer or inspector may direct. 2023, c. 9, Sched. 36, s. 22.</p>	<p>First offence: \$250-\$1000</p> <p>Each subsequent offence: \$1000-\$5000</p>	<p>Ontario's Towing Laws</p> <p>Know Your Rights When Getting a Tow</p>

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Québec	Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec	<p>A tow truck used for commercial purposes must be registered at an SAAQ service outlet and outlines the following requirements:</p> <p>1. Before Registration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To Register a Tow Truck to a Business Registration With the Commission Des Transports du Quebec Mechanical Inspection IF the Tow Truck is Prohibited From Being Put Into Operation or has Been Stored for One Year or Longer <p>2. When You Register the Tow Truck</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document Required <p>3. Costs and Payment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration Fees Payment Options Payment of the GST and QST <p>4. Insurance</p>	\$325-\$2,800	Unknown
Prince Edward Island	Highway Traffic Act	<p>1(u.4) "tow truck" means a motor vehicle equipped with hoisting and towing apparatus and equipment and designed and used for towing or rendering assistance to disabled motor vehicles;</p> <p>115. Use of flashing lights</p> <p>(c) that amber flashing lamps may be used on a tow truck while attending or towing a vehicle</p>	Not specified	Unknown
Cape Breton, Nova Scotia	Bylaw No. T-200-Tow Truck Licensing Bylaw	<p>"Tow Truck" means a Vehicle used for towing or otherwise conveying Vehicle(s) which shall include a Wrecker Body;</p> <p>25. DRIVER PROHIBITION No Licenced [sic] Driver shall:</p> <p>(1) commence to tow or otherwise convey or move any Vehicle, or hook, lift or connect the Vehicle to the Tow Truck, or perform any other services unless first requested so to do by a Hirer, or a peace officer or any member of a municipal fire department, or any Person authorized by law to direct the removal of the Vehicle from private or public property;</p>	\$200-\$600	Unknown

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		<p>(2) where the request to tow a Vehicle outlined in Sub-Section (1) is from a Hirer, and where the tow is required as a result of a Motor Vehicle Collision, the Driver shall not commence to tow or otherwise convey or move any Vehicles, hook, lift or connect the Vehicle to the Tow Truck unless the Tow Truck Driver has a completed Permission to Tow a Vehicle Form and it has been dated and signed by the Hirer and he/she has provided a copy thereof to the Hirer;</p> <p>(3) alter or provide any information on the Permission to Tow a Vehicle Form;</p> <p>(4) stop, or park within 200 meters (approximately 653 feet) of a Collision location but this does not apply where the Tow Truck Driver has been summoned to the location of the Collision by one of the Persons referred to in sub-section (1) or where there are fewer Tow Trucks at the Collision location than Vehicles apparently requiring the services of a Tow Truck;</p> <p>(5) ask or seek out a Hirer or allow or direct an agent to ask or seek out a Hirer, at a Collision location or within 200 meters (approximately 653 feet) of a Collision location, where the actions of the Driver or agent constitutes a Nuisance;</p> <p>(6) tow other otherwise convey or move any Vehicle which is to be towed outside the Municipal Boundary unless requested by the Owner or operator of the Vehicle or a peace officer or member of the municipal fire department;</p> <p>(7) driver or act as a Driver unless the Registered Owner or where applicable, the lessee, of the Tow Truck is licenced [sic] under this by-law;</p> <p>(8) commence to Driver or act as a Driver for any Registered Owner or, where applicable, any lessee, without first providing the Manager with a letter from that Person stating that the Owner or, where applicable, the lessee consents to the Driver operating their Licenced [sic] Tow Truck(s);</p> <p>(9) commence to tow or otherwise convey or move any Vehicle or perform any other services unless first disclosing to the Hirer any interest (either direct or indirect) that the Driver has in any location or facility to which a Vehicle may be towed for repair, storage, appraisal or similar purpose in accordance with any prescribed standards.</p>		

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Northwest Territories	Motor Vehicles Act	<p>132. (5) A motor vehicle operated on a highway must be equipped with one or more amber flashing lights if the vehicle is: (a) a tow truck.</p> <p>135. (1) A person who operates a tow truck on a highway shall activate the amber flashing lights on the truck when the truck is towing a vehicle.</p>	Not specified	Unknown