



Car Care Canada Urges Motorists to Prepare for Car Care Month and Summer Driving with a *10-minute Road Trip Check-up*

New Family Road Trip Guide Focuses on Easy Tips for Saving Gas, Protecting Environment and Ensuring Safety

Embargoed until May 01, 2009, Ottawa - May is Car Care Month and Car Care Canada is preparing families to get back to their roots, including the good old-fashioned road trip. The newly-minted Be Car Care Aware *Family Road Trip Guide* is available online at no charge and helps Canadians prepare their vehicles for Spring and Summer driving and includes tips for saving gas, protecting the environment and ensuring safety, as well as in-car games for kids and meal planning. It also includes the "10-minute Road Trip Check-Up."

With the economy in recession, road trips are an economic way to enjoy the outdoors and visit friends and relatives. The key to peace of mind is preparation. Deep down, most people know their car should be checked out before hitting the road for the holidays but studies have shown that a majority of people put it off thinking it will take too much time, money and effort. The truth is it takes very little time to determine if the family vehicle is ready for long-distance travel.

To illustrate that point, the Family Road Trip Guide starts with the "10-minute Road Trip Check-Up" designed to help Canadians ensure safety and reliability before loading the family into the family's vehicle.

"Planning your road trip may take hours and driving may take days, but getting the car ready for a trip can take as little as 10 minutes," said racecar driver and Be Car Care Aware spokesperson Kelly Williams. "I always tell motorists to make that 10-minute investment. In that short amount of time, they can identify how road-ready their vehicle is and, if necessary, take care of any the problems before heading out for a vacation."

Car Care Canada encourages Canadians to view the 10-minute investment as a down payment on safety and convenience. It's really a small sacrifice compared to the inconvenience, cost and potential hazards of breaking down many kilometres away from home.

10-minute Road Trip Check-Up

1. Check all fluids: There are several fluids that require attention, including engine oil, power steering, brake and transmission fluids and windshield washer solvent and antifreeze/coolant.
2. Check hoses and belts: A belt that fails can affect the electrical system, air conditioning and power steering, as well as the cooling system. Cooling system hoses may be deteriorating from within, so old hoses and clamps in marginal condition might need to be replaced.



3. Check the tires: Check tire inflation and also inspect the tread for uneven wear, (indicating the need for wheel alignment). Also look for bulges and bald spots.
4. Check lighting: Check all exterior and interior lighting to identify any problems. Car Care Canada vehicle check-up lanes revealed an overall failure rate of more than 25 percent in the lighting category. When your vehicle's lighting is defective, other motorists may not get the message that you intend to stop or turn. The end result could be disastrous.
5. Check the wiper blades and make sure the windshield wipers are working properly: Keep the reservoir filled with solvent. Worn-out wipers should be checked and replaced if needed prior to a road trip. As a rule of thumb, wipers should be replaced every six months.

Driving tips to keep you Green, Clean and Lean.

To save on fuel costs and emissions during the trip, the *Family Road Trip Guide* also suggests that motorists avoid aggressive driving and excessive idling and observe the speed limit. Here are some highlights of the recommendations.

- Avoid quick starts & aggressive driving
- Slow down
- Use overdrive & cruise control when safe to do so
- Check your tire pressure
- When highway driving, use air conditioning to reduce drag
- Preventative maintenance is everything – a poorly maintained vehicle uses up to fifty per cent more fuel to travel the same distance as a well-tuned vehicle.

Check out the “Go Green! Vehicle Maintenance Tips to Help Save You Money” brochure on the Car Care Canada website that includes potential gas and money savings based on a series of maintenance tasks.

Visit <http://www.carcarecanada.ca> today to learn more about the *Family Road Trip Guide*, including further tips for saving gas, protecting the environment and ensuring safety, as well as in-car games for kids, meal planning and the “10-minute Road Trip Check-Up.”

About Be Car Care Aware and Car Care Canada

Be Car Care Aware is a campaign to inform Canadian drivers about the benefits of regular, vehicle care, maintenance and repair. The campaign's purpose is to empower drivers to make sensible decisions about their vehicles and avoid costly repairs due to neglect. Be Car Care Aware is spearheaded by Car Care Canada and built around three key themes: safety, environmental protection and maximizing value for money spent on vehicle maintenance and repairs.

Car Care Canada is a non-profit advocacy group that offers research, consumer education and information about the Canadian automotive aftermarket industry. For more than 15 years, Car Care Canada has been working to advance the motoring public's understanding of the vital



importance of regular vehicle maintenance and how, by taking a preventative approach to vehicle care and driving habits, motorists can lower their maintenance costs and improve safety.

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