



## ***Back-up parking, It makes sense!***

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The Optimist Clubs noticed that many accidents happen as motorists are backing out (in reverse) from parking spaces. **Back-up Parking** is a safety program, sponsored by the Optimist Clubs. Its goal is very simple: basic life-saving. Preventing accidents caused by a driver's moment of distraction, could save your child or someone else you dearly love. In the coming months, you will hear and see the progress of the program in your area and throughout the entire province of Quebec.

It is safer to back-up into parking spaces and to exit by driving forward. Drivers have a clear view of their environment from the roadway before they enter a parking spot, so this is the safest time to drive in reverse. When sitting in a parking space drivers have a limited view of traffic conditions, especially if forced to look out the back of the car. **Back-up Parking** gives drivers an advantage to prevent accidents when leaving any parking spot.

Motorists leaving their driveways are more exposed to the risk of accidents. They have to deal with moving motor vehicles, pedestrians on sidewalks, as well as cyclists and skaters on bicycle paths—who may not be paying attention to vehicles coming out of driveways. Responsibility still belongs to the motorist to assure that the road is clear.

Backing-out into traffic with the constraints of blindspots and other preoccupations creates an extremely hazardous situation. **Back-up parking** upon arrival is an excellent way to reduce the risk of accidents. At the end of a day's work you will have your mind free to leave safely.

To promote our safety program we have produced a pamphlet, a 10-minute video called ***Back-up parking, it makes sense!***, a PowerPoint presentation and a website [www.optisarcel.com](http://www.optisarcel.com).

The Department of Transport has designed a road sign to encourage and remind drivers to park backward upon arrival (illustrated above). Some panel signs are already installed near municipal and community buildings and playgrounds in different cities. The Optimist Club has also partnered with garden centers, schools, merchants and businesses to promote the good habit of safety with **Back-up Parking**.

### **Advantages of Back-up Parking...**

- Leads to a safe exit
- Favours driver visibility
- Attracts attention when leaving, since we are more easily seen with our headlights on
- Reduces risks of accidents
- Ideal position to be towed and boosted
- Facilitates exit between snow banks
- Ready to leave in case of emergency

**« The best moment to prepare to leave a place safely is upon arrival. »**

**It's just a change of habit!**

***«Back-up parking is intelligent!»***

(SARCEL) Original idea from  
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