

Can Most Winter Breakdowns Be Prevented? CAA-Quebec Says Yes

Even though CAA-Quebec is prepared for winter and for the 250,000 telephone and online requests for roadside assistance it expects to respond to by the end of March, it would like to remind motorists that by taking a few precautions now, including getting an engine tune-up, they can avoid most of the car troubles associated with winter.

([PRWEB](#)) December 10, 2004 -- "Being late for work, suffering from the cold, being stranded or stuck: the consequences of a breakdown are often more nerve-racking than the problem itself," says Claire Roy, director of public affairs and media relations for CAA-Quebec. "Since an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, we believe the best place to start is with a tune-up."

Even if you have an older vehicle or have not been following your manufacturer's maintenance schedule, it's never too late for a proper tune-up. It should include inspection of the fuel, exhaust, ignition, electrical, lubrication and cooling/heating systems.

What does a good tune-up cost? It all depends on your vehicle's condition. "The cost is usually higher than the popular package prices we see advertised everywhere," Ms. Roy cautions. "Those \$39.95 or \$49.95 tune-up specials cover only a few limited inspections. It's best to ask what's included."

An engine block heater is another must for avoiding trouble. It should be checked during the tune-up to make sure it is in good working order. For maximum benefit, a block heater need only be plugged in two to three hours before you leave. It is very useful when the mercury drops below -10°C and indispensable when it plummets to under -15°C. By using a timer or a thermostatic electrical cord, you can minimize the amount of electricity it uses.

In principle, by this time of year conscientious motorists have usually given their vehicle a thorough cleaning and waxing. If they also had the foresight to apply a silicone-based product to the rubber door seals and door locks, they will have reduced the risks of having to deal with annoying frozen locks or doors when the temperature changes suddenly.

"As well, be sure you always have two essential products on hand: lock de-icer and gas-line antifreeze," Ms. Roy concludes.

A not-for-profit organization founded in 1904, CAA-Quebec provides automotive, travel, residential and financial services to 800,000 members in Quebec. CAA-Quebec Emergency Road Service is now accessible online on the www.caaquebec.com Web site.

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