

Tragedy to triumph

Nolan was just like any other teenager. He enjoyed working on farms, hanging out with friends, and enjoyed taking risks, big or small. The later years of high school, partying had taken over his life. The use of drugs and alcohol took priority over family friends and loved ones. Then his life took a turn for the worst. He was critically injured in a motor vehicle rollover with 8 of his friends in May of 2010 when he was just 18 years old. Nolan broke his back at the T6 level and has since become a complete paraplegic, and had to learn to live a life in a wheelchair. Nolan began speaking to communities about his experience only months after the incident. Since the collision, Nolan has taken up adaptive waterskiing, which within a few short years landed him a position on Canada's national team. He had been competing, representing Canada for 7 years now. He is now ranked among the top skiers in the world. Nolan's story talks about the mental and physical struggles that come with living with a disability, and how destructive decisions lead up to him having to adapt to a new life.



Nolan Barnes

Nolan is available from November 18 to November 22, 2019.

Recommended Audience: **Grades 10 to 12**

Requirements: LCD projector screen, microphone, sound system, laptop

Length: Approximately 45-minute presentation + 15-minute Q+A

Schedule a presentation

To schedule a presentation, please contact Community Relations at 204-985-8737 or RoadSafety@mpi.mb.ca.

Encourage your students to be 'friends for life'

When your school hosts a presenter, you will receive a Friends for Life banner that students can sign as a pledge to be 'friends for life'. This pledge means they're committed to making safe driving choices and will encourage their friends to do the same.

About Friends for Life

Young Manitoba drivers (age 16 - 19) are consistently over-represented in collisions related to distracted driving, impaired driving and speed. Friends for Life is an initiative of Manitoba Public Insurance, in partnership with the Manitoba School Boards Association and Teens Against Destructive Decisions (TADD). The Friends for Life speaker series uses eye-opening, real life stories to educate high school students about the consequences of unsafe driving behaviours.

In 2017:

- Distracted driving was responsible for 41% of people killed and 42% of people seriously injured.
- Impaired driving killed 23 people.
- Speed was responsible for 18% of people killed.

Source: 2017 Traffic Collision Statistics Report



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