

## Tougher laws sought by dad

By JONATHAN JENKINS

Laws that are supposed to punish drivers who run down pedestrians and leave them dying in the streets are too weak to discourage anyone from fleeing the scene of a crash, says a Calgary man who lost his daughter to a hit-and-run driver last year.

"It's like an epidemic," Gerald Giacomelli said yesterday. "It would have made a world of difference to me if the person stopped. People make mistakes. But to not stop and offer assistance -- you wouldn't do that to dog or a deer."

### WENT HOME, ATE PIZZA

Giacomelli's daughter Lindsay, 20, was killed last year on March 17. The driver who ran down the University of Calgary dance student allegedly went home, ordered a pizza and watched a movie.

He's still awaiting trial.

Giacomelli said he's learned that most people convicted of leaving the scene of a fatal crash get a sentence of six months to two years, and they usually have an excellent chance at early parole.

There's no deterrence, he said: " The judge says, 'Sorry, don't do that again.'"

### 7-YEAR SENTENCE

That's why he joined a campaign to toughen federal laws and enshrine a mandatory seven-year sentence for drivers who leave the scene of a fatality.

The drive had earlier been successful in getting a bill, pushed by former Conservative MP Randy White, into the Commons, but it was defeated in 2003. Giacomelli is hoping the new Conservative government will back similar legislation.

"I won't let it go."