



Toyota Canada CEO Yoichu Tomihara appeared before a Commons committee last month to defend the automaker's troubles.

Criminal probe needed into Toyota, NDP says

Revelations 'shocking' that company knew of problems years ago

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The federal New Democrats are calling for a police criminal investigation into allegations that Toyota executives knew about auto acceleration problems for years but didn't act despite public danger.

NDP industry critic Brian Masse said Tuesday revelations that company executives had knowledge about defective accelerator problems as early as 2004 are "shocking."

"These facts demand a criminal investigation, which is allowed under the Motor Vehicle Safety Act," said Masse (Windsor West).

Last week, Liberal MP Joe Volpe (Eglinton-Lawrence) pressed Transport Minister John Baird for an "update" on the department's probe into a Toyota recall of sticking accelerator pedals in January almost four months after issuing repair procedures internally.

Volpe and Masse are members of the Commons standing committee on transport that grilled senior department and Toyota officials about a series of recalls last month.

Baird had said although a minister of the Crown could not order an investigation, he had asked his department to probe why Toyota didn't notify the government. The department could make recommendations and turn over the case to the federal attorney general's office for a decision on prosecution.

Meanwhile, Honda Canada announced a recall of about 605 Acura ZDX vehicles to inspect the inside dashboard surface material because the passenger side airbag of affected 2010 models will not deploy properly.