



## Media Release

June 13, 2006

### **BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation's Mature Drivers Workshops Helping Mature Drivers Stay Independent**

**(Penticton, BC)** – For many of us, driving is a key to independence. Mature drivers are often criticized for their driving, and while many remain competent behind the wheel, changes that occur as we age can increase our risk on the road. This is why the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation has been implementing Mature Drivers Workshops in communities around the province.

The next Mature Drivers Workshop in Penticton is on June 19 from 10:00AM to 12:00PM at the Penticton Wellness & Recreation Centre.

John Ortiz and Ron Awai are the volunteer leaders for the Mature Driver Workshop and for them it is all about independence. "I'm in an age group that is very concerned about keeping their licenses and freedom to drive," says Ortiz. "This workshop will help mature drivers review their skills and keep their independence through better and safer driving habits."

Research shows that age alone is not a good predictor of driving safety or ability. Each of us is unique and the way we age is also unique. Research also shows that seniors are more likely than other drivers (except for the very young) to be involved in a crash. When seniors are involved in crashes, they are more likely to be seriously injured or die, and often they take longer to recover from their injuries.

Safe driving is the key to a long driving career. "Many people have the mistaken belief that older drivers are bad drivers and that's just not true," says David Dunne, Director, Provincial Programs for the BCAA TSF. "We believe that there's a lot that most older drivers can do to increase their safety on the road - and that's why we developed this program. We're here to help older drivers stay safe and mobile for as long as possible."

A desire and ability to adapt to change can help us continue to drive safely for as long as possible and maintain the independence that comes with a drivers license. The good news is that there are things most of us can do to decrease our risk and improve our driving. The Mature Driver Workshops can help you assess your own driving behaviours, abilities, knowledge and habits. Drivers will get tips and strategies to help them make changes and improve their driving.

“There is a definite demand for these workshops,” stated Vaughn Denis, Manager BCAA Penticton. “Since the first workshop, our office has had calls asking when the next one will be. This is important to the people in our community because they want to continue to be good drivers.”

Register for the June 19<sup>th</sup> BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation Mature Drivers Workshop at the Penticton Wellness & Recreation Centre by calling 250.487.2466. Space is limited so register early.

##

**About BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation**

The BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation (TSF) is a non-profit registered charity working with families, communities and business partners to reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes and injuries in B.C. For more information contact visit [www.tsf-bcaa.com](http://www.tsf-bcaa.com).

**Available for Interview:**

John Ortiz, Workshop Leaders

Vaughn Denis, Manager, BCAA Penticton

David Dunne, Director, Provincial Programs

-30-

**For further information, please contact:**

Lennea Durant  
Media Relations  
BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation  
604-875-1182  
lenneadurant@shaw.ca

David Dunne  
Director, Provincial Programs  
BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation  
604-297-2152  
david.dunne@bcaa.com