

BCAA TRAFFIC SAFETY FOUNDATION  
IS IMPLEMENTING NEW CROSSING GUARD PROCEDURES  
IN SCHOOL ZONES AROUND BC

*(Burnaby, BC)* – The BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation is changing the way school safety crossing guards do their job in school zones around the province and drivers are requested to adjust to these changes. Crosswalk patrollers will now be using their STOP paddles while **standing at the curb**. Previously the patrollers would walk into the crosswalk to stop cars for their fellow students. These changes match the operations of other lower mainland student patrols.

The following **communities** will see changes to the crosswalk patrol procedures starting this September: Burnaby, North Vancouver, Kamloops, Prince Rupert, Kelowna, Penticton, Revelstoke, Richmond and Chilliwack.

“Having drivers come across the same patrol operation regardless of where they are driving is an important road safety consideration,” says Allan Lamb, Executive Director, BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation. “We are asking drivers to be particularly careful when they see a school patrol. The students will receive extra training this year and we are confident the changes will result in even safer cross walks for all students”

Almost half of the children in BC are driven to school and the number is growing every year. Increased traffic congestion can create serious safety, environmental and health concerns for school-aged children. The area immediately surrounding a school is where the highest percentage of traffic violations and dangerous driving practices occur - U-turns, stopping in no-stopping zones, backing up into crosswalks, rolling through stop signs, speeding – **and parents are the worst violators**. In 2004, 16.6% of all people killed or injured in vehicle-pedestrian collisions were under the age of 16 (ICBC Traffic Collision Statistics 2004 and most recent data available).

Many schools in BC have implemented traffic reduction programs and other strategies that reduce congestion, pollution, risk of injury, and encourage a more active lifestyle. Schools have established “safe walk” and “bike zones” around the school and

discourage parents from driving in the streets closest to the school during the peak school times. Signage and 30 km/h school zone speed limits are also part of this strategy. This school year, look out for the crosswalk patrollers and their STOP paddles. For more information about school safety or the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation visit **www.tsf-bcaa.com** or call **604-298-5107**.

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

Program Information:  
Allan Lamb  
Executive Director  
BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation  
604-297-2151  
allan.lamb@tsf-bcaa.com