

## **YOU AND YOUR TEEN BEHIND THE WHEEL**

Get involved. It makes a difference.

(Burnaby, BC) – Your teen has been thinking about getting behind the wheel of a car for years, and according to the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation when he or she does they will be more likely to be seriously injured or even killed in a crash than from all other causes combined. Research indicates that car crashes involving young drivers can be reduced by up to 1/3 when parents take an active role in their teenager's driving education.

Many parents are unaware of the actual risks facing their teenagers, and while almost all parents believe in the importance of demonstrating positive driving attitudes and behaviours, most admit to engaging in risky driving behaviours themselves and don't realize that they can have a negative impact on their teenagers driving development.

The BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation is helping parents help their teenagers become safer drivers and is launching their *Teen Driving Workshop for Parents* this week. At the workshops parents are given tools to help them steer their teen in the right direction.

The workshops, held at BCAA offices around the province, are designed to help parents understand the facts and risks facing teen drivers and their passengers, and to provide parents with the knowledge, tools and resources to manage their teenagers driving education.

Last spring the Foundation released the results of their Young Drivers Study, which indicated that parental role modeling has a powerful influence on the development of the driving behaviours of their children. Those surveyed cited their parents, and primarily their fathers as the most significant influence on their driving behaviours.

When parents were presented with the knowledge that their driving attitude and behaviour significantly influenced their children's driving, they agreed that they needed to be more aware of their own driving practices and wanted tools to help their children develop safe driving practices.

Being the parent of a teenage driver can be stressful, and when one considers that car crashes are the number one cause of death among teenagers in BC, a parent's concerns are justified.

16 to 20 year olds represent 6.5% of all licensed drivers in BC, but they account for 13.4% of all drivers involved in a crash, and one in four crashes involving Graduated

Licensing Program (GLP) drivers results in an injury or fatality. Taking an active role and set boundaries in your teenager's driving education could save their life.

More information about the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation and the *Teen Driving Workshops for Parents* is available at [www.TeenDrivers.ca](http://www.TeenDrivers.ca) or by calling toll free **1-877-297-2254**.

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**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 visit [www.BCAATSF.ca](http://www.BCAATSF.ca).

***DRIVE TO SAVE LIVES***  
**[www.BCAATSF.ca](http://www.BCAATSF.ca)**

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