

September 16, 2015  
For Immediate Release

**NOTE: Results news conference at [11:00 am](#) at Sister MacNamara School.**

## **FIFTH ANNUAL CAA SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY ASSESSMENT SHOWS MANY DRIVERS NEED TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL**

*Over 1,600 risky behaviours spotted in less than two hours: CAA*

WINNIPEG, MB: It may only be one week into the school year, but some drivers have already failed their first test in CAA Manitoba's 5<sup>th</sup> annual Back to School Safety Assessment.

During today's morning rush, 1,616 instances of risky behaviour were witnessed in three Winnipeg school zones in less than two hours.

"In the past few years, we have seen more effort and awareness across the board to increase safety in school zones," says Mike Mager, President and CEO of CAA Manitoba. "We have seen some encouraging things today, and many motorists have taken this message to heart, but unfortunately, not everyone."

For the fifth year, CAA Manitoba, the Winnipeg Police Service and teams of road safety experts stationed themselves in three school zones between 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. to observe traffic and note safety infractions, some of which are offences punishable by fines and demerits.

"Until this number is 0, there is still work to be done to increase the safety of our kids while they go to and from school. It all comes down to making decisions with safety in mind." says Mager.

Mager notes that even though it has been over one year since reduced speed limits in school zones came into effect, there were still 173 motorists found speeding during the assessment, something he says is "totally unacceptable."

In addition to speeding, the most common infractions included:

- **Failing to stop at a stop line, crosswalk, for patrols or rolling stop** – 587 instances
- **Distracted driving** – 79 instances
- **Changing lanes illegally** – 185 instances

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## Other unusual behaviours we spotted:

- Mother feeding baby a bottle in a rear facing car seat – while driving
- Driver going backwards down one street
- Drivers and cyclists with two earphones in
- One driver, travelling at 55 km/h in a 30 km/h zone, flew through a crosswalk where a child was waiting to cross
- One school bus going 39 km/h
- One child cyclists, without helmet, reading a poster while weaving all over the road

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