

September 10, 2014
For Immediate Release

NOTE: Results news conference at [10:50 am](#) at Grosvenor School.

FOURTH ANNUAL CAA SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY ASSESSMENT SHOWS MANY ARE STILL SPEEDING IN SCHOOL ZONES

CAA spots 1,531 examples of risky behaviour in less than two hours

WINNIPEG, MB: The results are in from the 4th annual CAA Back to School Zone Safety Assessment, and motorists aren't getting a passing grade.

Although there are many motorists going out of their way to drive safely in school zones, a large number of motorists are still taking risks on the road. Over 1,500 instances of risky behaviour were witnessed in three school zones in less than two hours.

"It has been over a week that reduced speed limits in school zones have been in effect, but some motorists are still not getting the message," said Mike Mager, President and CEO of CAA Manitoba. "Slowing down will make little difference in your commute, but could be the difference in life or death for a child."

"The safety of children is paramount and we can't emphasize enough how important it is to slow down when driving in school zones," said Justice Minister Andrew Swan. "Under new legislation, school zones and lower speed limits are clearly marked so motorists have lots of warning to take the extra precautions so critical to protecting children. There is no excuse for speeding and endangering lives."

Mager notes that two of the schools participating in this year's assessment have had a pedestrian/motor vehicle accident in the past year.

"Speeding isn't the only safety concern in the school zones we witnessed today," Mager said. "This morning we saw motorists ignoring stop lines and road signs, improper drop-offs, dozens of distracted drivers and lots of general unsafe behaviour."

CAA Manitoba posted teams of road safety experts near three elementary schools: Grosvenor School, Mulvey School and Samuel Burland School. Teams were comprised of CAA staff, members of the Winnipeg Police Traffic Unit, Manitoba Public Insurance, Green Action Centre, the Manitoba School Boards Association and teachers and parents from each of the schools assessed.

Continued...

For more information please contact:

Angèle Young, Public and Government Affairs Specialist

P 204 262.6134 • C 204 797.4326

F 204 775.9989 • E angeley@caamanitoba.com



In addition to speeding, the most common infractions included:

- **Distracted driving** – 98 instances
- **Failing to stop at a stop line** – 346 instances
- **Failing to obey road signs** – 116 instances
- **Changing lanes illegally** – 214 instances
- **Speeding** – 143 instances, about half of motorists going through one of the school zones were speeding

Mager said even though many of these examples of risky behaviour aren't illegal, they are still dangerous. He also indicated that numbers from year-to-year cannot be compared to judge whether motorists are getting better or worse, as each year different school zones are assessed.

“What these results tell us is that motorists are taking chances in the number one place they should be as careful as possible: school zones.”

Other unusual instances we spotted

- Adult cyclist riding with a child in panier of bike, both not wearing helmets
- Motorist using up two lanes of the roadway
- One distracted driver was brushing their teeth
- Pedestrians texting and crossing the street

-30-

For more information please contact:

Angèle Young, Public and Government Affairs Specialist

P 204 262.6134 • C 204 797.4326

F 204 775.9989 • E angeley@caamanitoba.com

