

## **RISKY DRIVING IS REDUCING SAFETY IN SCHOOL ZONES: CAA MANITOBA**

*Sixth assessment finds 548 instances of dangerous driving in under two hours*

WINNIPEG, September 14, 2016 – CAA Manitoba put drivers to the test today in their sixth annual school zone safety assessment and scores illustrate Winnipeggers have more to learn.

From 7:30 to 9 a.m., CAA Manitoba, the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) and teams comprised of teachers and volunteers observed traffic, and recorded 548 instances of risky driving behaviour around St. Ignatius School, Whyte Ridge Elementary and Faraday School.

"This assessment is a snapshot of what road behavior looks like in school zones throughout the day," says Mike Mager, President and CEO of CAA Manitoba. "I'd like to say drivers get an A for effort, but unfortunately I can't. We continue to see too many motorists speed through school zones or drive dangerously, putting our children and families at risk."

While reduced speed limits in school zones have been in effect in Winnipeg for two years, 76 motorists were found by the WPS traffic unit officers to be speeding during the assessment. One driver was clocked at traveling 65 km/hr in a 30 km/hr reduced speed school zone.

"With the new school year just starting The Winnipeg Police Service would like drivers to use caution when driving in and around school zones," said Constable Rich Aminot, at the Winnipeg Police Service traffic safety unit. "The CAA assessment is a stark reminder that motorists don't always exercise safe driving behaviour in these zones."

Other common infractions that are punishable by fines and demerits were spotted, included 37 instances of distracted driving, 87 drivers failing to stop at a crosswalk or stop sign, and 41 occurrences of using a driveway to drop off and turn around. The totals are compiled numbers from each team's raw observer count.

Notably unsafe behaviours observed include:

- Driver holding a dog in their lap while driving;
- Someone distracted cycling - biking and texting at the same time;
- Woman smoking with a young child in a car seat, which is against the law;
- A Winnipeg Transit Bus going over 40 km/hr in a 30 km/hr school zone, confirmed by WPS traffic unit with laser speed reader;
- A teenager walking across the intersection with headphones in, unaware of an ambulance with sirens on coming straight toward them.
- Two drivers crossed the yellow line to pass cars in the left lane on Mountain Ave., just before the traffic lights, putting pedestrians and drivers at risk of injury and accident.

CAA Manitoba and the Winnipeg Police Service encourage Winnipeggers to keep each other safe and be positive role models for all children in our community by leading by example and practicing the rules of the road.

-30-

**For more information, please contact:**

Erika Miller, Public and Media Relations Specialist

[erikam@caamanitoba.com](mailto:erikam@caamanitoba.com) • (204) 262-6134 • (204) 797-4326

