

News Release

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For Immediate Release

NOTE: Results news conference at [11 am](#) in front of Archwood School.

SECOND ANNUAL SCHOOL ZONE ASSESSMENT HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR MORE ATTENTION TO THE ROAD

CAA spots 1050 examples of risky behaviour in just over an hour

Results from the second annual CAA School Zone Safety Assessment are once again conclusive: while 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.

"This assessment once again proves how important it is that drivers are focused on one job when they're behind the wheel," said Mike Mager, President and CEO of CAA Manitoba. "That job is driving. Nothing else."

Mager said even though school has only been back one week, bad driving habits have re-emerged.

"We know that driving too fast for conditions continues to be a problem in school zones, that's why we support the city's move to lower the limit to 30 kilometres per hour," Mager said. "But this morning we also saw motorists ignoring the stop lines, running red lights, changing lanes without signaling and we witnessed dozens of distracted drivers talking, texting and worse behind the wheel."

CAA Manitoba posted teams of road safety experts near three elementary schools: Carpathia, Archwood and Lacerte. Teams were comprised of CAA School Safety Patrol Staff, Members of the Winnipeg Police Traffic unit, the Manitoba School Boards Association and teachers and parents from each of the schools assessed. During this time, in total 1050 infractions and examples of risky behaviour were recorded.

In addition to speeding, the most common infractions included:

- **Distracted driving** - We spotted 182 instances. Everything from cell phones, to drinking, eating, smoking and putting on makeup. One motorist was seen reading a newspaper.
- **Failing to stop at a stop line** – 105 cars stopped past the designated stop line at an intersection directly in front of one school.
- **Failing to obey road signs** – 40 instances of motorists making illegal turns when outside of the designated times those turns are allowed.
- **Changing lanes illegally** – 119 instances of motorists changing lanes without signaling.

Mager said even though many of these examples of risky behaviour aren't illegal, they are still dangerous.



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Mager also indicated the examples of risky behaviors doubled over last year, but that cannot be attributed to a decrease in school zone safety overall.

“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.”

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