

OCTOBER 19, 2010

MEDIA EVENT WITH CAA ONTARIO  
PEEL SAFETY VILLAGE, BRAMPTON

WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER OF  
TRANSPORTATION

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK

THANK YOU LESLIE: GOOD MORNING:

ON BEHALF OF OUR 135 MEMBER COMPANIES, I AM PLEASED  
TO BE A PART OF TODAY'S EVENT WHICH RECOGNIZES  
SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK ACROSS ONTARIO.

ACCORDING TO TRANSPORT CANADA, CHILDREN RIDING IN  
SCHOOL BUSES ARE 16 X SAFER THAN IN ANY OTHER VEHICLE.  
OUR 18,000 BUSES TRANSPORT 800,000 CHILDREN TWICE A DAY  
WHILE LOGGING OVER 1.9 MILLION KMS EVERY DAY. THAT IS  
EQUAL TO DRIVING AROUND THE EARTH 50 TIMES.

ANNUALLY, WE PROVIDE OVER 300 MILLION SAFE RIDES .

WITH ITS CONSPICUOUS CHROME YELLOW AND BLACK PAINT,  
FLASHING RED ALTERNATING LIGHTS, YELLOW CROSSING  
GATE AND DISTINCTIVE STOP SIGN, IT IS A BEACON OF SAFETY  
AND SECURITY, WELL BUILT AND SUITED FOR THE IMPORTANT

JOB IT DOES FOR OUR SPECIAL PASSENGERS.

FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT TO ENSURING MOTORISTS PAY HEED TO THE SCHOOL BUS WHEN CHILDREN ARE LOADING OR UNLOADING.

OUR ASSOCIATION APPRECIATES THE EXCELLENT PARTNERSHIP WE HAVE WITH THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION AND PROGRAMS THAT KEEP SAFETY OUR TOP PRIORITY.

THIS EVENT SPONSORED BY OUR COLLEAGUES AT THE CAA AND OTHERS IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS ONTARIO ARE IMPORTANT PUBLIC EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES TO GET THE MESSAGE OUT THAT TOGETHER WE ARE ALL ABOUT SAFETY.

AND DRIVING THE SAFETY THEME ARE THE 18,000 DEDICATED WOMEN AND MEN WHOSE HANDS ARE ON THE WHEEL OF THE SCHOOL BUS.

NOT ONLY DO THEY HAVE THE HUGE RESPONSIBILITY OF SAFELY DRIVING OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN IN THEIR SCHOOL VEHICLE EACH AND EVERY DAY, THEY HAVE THE DAUNTING TASK OF MANAGING THE DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES AND NEEDS OF THE STUDENTS ON BOARD.

IN SHORT, A SCHOOL BUS DRIVER MUST BE A PARENT, REFEREE, SOCIAL WORKER, NURSE, PSYCHOLOGIST, SAFETY OFFICER AND FRIEND ALL, ROLLED INTO ONE.

BEING THE FIRST FRIENDLY CONTACT A STUDENT HAS WITH THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE MORNING AND THE LAST ONE AT NIGHT CAN GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS MAKING THE CHILD'S DAY A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE.

THE ONTARIO SCHOOL BUS ASSOCIATION IS VERY PROUD OF OUR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS AND WE HAVE DEDICATED OUR 2010 MAGAZINE TO SHARING SOME OF THE PERSONAL STORIES OF DRIVERS UNDER THE BANNER

**21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SUPERHEROES**

SO, NEXT TIME YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO A  
SCHOOL BUS DRIVER, PLEASE SAY “THANK YOU.”