



Dear Participating School Bus Operators,

## **Driver Retention Program (DRP) - Update on the Status of Bonus Payments to Eligible School Bus Drivers – PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO DRIVERS!**

Welcome back to all school bus drivers and operators and thank you for continuing to provide an important service to Ontario students and families. Your hard work and dedication is truly valued, and OSBA and ISBOA will continue to work to support you. To that end, the following is an update on the bonus payments to be made to eligible school bus drivers under the DRP.

### **Timing of Bonus Payment**

As mentioned in earlier communications, we had hoped to mail the bonus cheques for Payment Period 1 (relating to employment from January to June 2018) by the end of September. Unfortunately, as this is a new pilot program, we have experienced a number of unexpected administrative delays. It is anticipated that the cheques for Payment Period 1 will be mailed directly to eligible school bus drivers towards the end of October. This is to ensure that all claims submissions from all school bus companies are complete and that all Exception Application Forms are given a full review.

A further communication will be issued once the cheques have been mailed. In addition, school bus operators who have submitted exception application forms on behalf of their drivers will be notified in advance of cheque mailing as to whether the exception applications were approved or not. The operators will be asked to then notify the applicable drivers of the outcome of the review process.

### **Amount of Bonus Payment**

Since the beginning of the DRP, options have been investigated to maximize the amount of the bonus and we are still working towards this goal. As previously stated, the amount of the bonus will be up to \$1000 less deductions and remittances. An update will be provided to all school bus operators regarding the amount as soon as possible and in any event, in advance of the mailing of the bonus payments.

### **Eligibility Criteria for Payment Period 2**

The eligibility requirements and exception application process in effect for Payment Period 1 will be continued through Payment Period 2 (relating to employment from September to December 2018). Accordingly, in order to qualify for the bonus in Payment Period 2, a Driver must meet all of the criteria outlined in the Eligibility Criteria #1 to #6. School bus drivers who meet criteria #1 to #5 but do not meet criteria #6, may apply for an exception. The Eligibility Criteria and Exception Application Form are available to download at <http://www.osba.on.ca/driver-retention-program>.

Drivers who did not participate in the DRP in Payment Period 1 and wish to participate in Payment Period 2 will be required to sign and provide a Consent Form to their employer. Details on this and other processes will follow.

For further updates, please visit the DRP webpage at: <http://www.osba.on.ca/driver-retention-program> or contact the DRP Call Centre as follows:

#### **If you are a school bus driver:**

Email Address – [schoolbusdriver@deloitte.ca](mailto:schoolbusdriver@deloitte.ca); Toll-free Number – 1-833-346-6177

#### **If you are a school bus operator:**

Email Address – [schoolbusoperator@deloitte.ca](mailto:schoolbusoperator@deloitte.ca); Toll-free Number - 1-833-715-7360

Thank you,

#### **Ontario School Bus Association (OSBA)**

Michele O'Bright  
Association Director  
[info@osba.on.ca](mailto:info@osba.on.ca)  
[www.osba.on.ca](http://www.osba.on.ca)