

# OSBA NEWS

## OSBA TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

*It is with great pleasure that we continue to communicate OSBA transition activities to you. As many of you know, with transition and change comes opportunity. The OSBA Board of Directors remains committed to providing value, products and services to meet and hopefully exceed the needs of all members. We are continuing to refocus the association's goals and activities and making fiscally responsible changes that are aligned with members' needs and financial realities.*

*As mentioned previously, as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, the current team of Rick Donaldson and Elizabeth McQuade will see some exciting changes. Rick will continue to be involved with OSBA on a contracted part-time basis for government relations. Elizabeth will be retiring from OSBA to enjoy family time, travel and other personal activities. We would like to sincerely thank both Rick and Elizabeth at this time for their 19 and 14 years' service to OSBA, and wish them the very best in future endeavours, health and happiness. Dave Carroll will continue to provide safety and legislation consulting services to OSBA members.*

*Also as of June 30, 2013, the team of "Solutions By Michele O'Bright" will be working with OSBA and all members to continue providing and enhancing many of the association's current services as well as some new and exciting products. Many of you know Michele O'Bright from her work with the Ontario Transportation Expo (OTE), the Professional Instructor in Driver Education (P.R.I.D.E.) Program, and the Ontario Motor Coach Association (OMCA). Michele brings over 30 years of association and event management expertise to OSBA and is eager to speak with all members to get a specific understanding of what current and/or new products and services specifically serve and provide value to each member and membership category. As "Association Director", Michele can be reached at 416-695-9965 or [mobright@osba.on.ca](mailto:mobright@osba.on.ca)*

*The OSBA office at 1 Eva Road is also on the move. For the time being, OSBA will continue to provide services from its current location, but will eventually re-locate to an office in Burlington, Ontario. We will keep you posted on the physical location of the OSBA office as transition activities and opportunities continue to evolve.*

*We welcome your comments and feedback at any time and I would appreciate hearing from you personally at 519-878-4834 or [president@osba.on.ca](mailto:president@osba.on.ca)*

*Best Regards,*

*Perry Ferguson  
OSBA President*

# **TRANSPORTATION STATION**

## **Update on “Code W” driver licence indicator for commercial drivers not medically qualified to drive in the U.S.**

As reported previously in *OSBA News*, the commercial driver licence reciprocity agreement between Canada and the US stipulates that Canadian commercial vehicle drivers with specific medical conditions as follows are **not** allowed to drive a commercial bus or truck in the US:

1. Diabetes requiring insulin
2. Hearing impaired
3. Monocular vision
4. Epilepsy/seizure history

Effective May 26<sup>th</sup>, Ontario began issuing new plastic licence cards to the 40,000 Ontario bus and truck drivers affected. The new licences will show a “W” in the “Rest/Cond” field on the front of the licence. The “W” identifies a driver who is not qualified to drive a commercial vehicle in the US. This licence indicator will help carriers to ensure they do not dispatch these drivers on US trips.

In view of the large number of licences to be re-issued, MTO is mailing the new cards on a staggered basis between May 26<sup>th</sup> and July 8<sup>th</sup>, after which all affected drivers will have been mailed a new licence card.

MTO 3-Year driver abstracts will also indicate if a driver has a Code W restriction. This will be shown near the bottom of the abstract where the medical due date is indicated. The abstract will say, “CAN OPERATE A COMMERCIAL VEHICLE IN CANADA ONLY”

Starting with the next Quarterly Licence Status Check, we will be adding the Code W to the driver roster template so that drivers with a Code W will come to the carrier’s attention.

Commercial class drivers who have not filed a cyclical medical report and were downgraded to a Class D as a result will also be issued a “Code W”. Class D drivers will be required to file a medical after being downgraded in order to drive in the U.S. in accordance with the Canada/U.S. Medical Reciprocity Agreement for Commercial Drivers. Effective April 1, 2013 all commercial drivers who fail to file their cyclical medical will be downgraded to a Class G. These drivers will need to file a medical in order to upgrade their driver’s licence.



# Calendar of Events June & July

## June 2013

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

This publication is a member service of the  
**Ontario School Bus Association**

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Treasurer, Mark Begg	613-346-2511
Director, Dave DeNure	519-676-5837
Director, Kirk Flach	289-840-7110
Director, Raymond Goulden	807-854-0479
Director, Chris Harwood	705-721-2626
Director, Brian Jobson	905-934-1124
Director, Nick McRae	613-488-2337
Director, Jim Switzer	289-288-1366

## Upcoming Events

July 7-12, 2013 - Professional Instructor in Driver Education Program - Burlington, ON

August 11-16, 2013 - Professional Instructor in Driver Education Program - Burlington, ON

## July 2013

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Submissions welcome.

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