

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## OSBA's Top 2019

### Accomplishments for OSBA Members



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- 1. Advocacy and Government Relations** conducted on behalf of all OSBA members, including on-going meetings, communications and written submissions to all levels of federal and provincial government including Transport Canada, the Ontario Ministries of Education and Transportation and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs). Advocacy efforts focus on accomplishing: *student transportation funding sustainability* that reflects urban and rural variability, cost changes and special needs; *proficient and transparent competitive procurement practices* that encourage provincial standardization and allow for annual adjustments based on appropriate benchmarks; *overall changes to student transportation governance and administration* to foster system wide efficiencies, cost savings, accountability and transparency of student transportation funds; *industry cost saving opportunities and standardized requirements* for service levels including pay-per-use bussing and staggered bell times; and *long term, sustainable solutions* that will address school bus driver wages, recruitment and retention.
- 2. Safety/Legislative Consultation and Issue Management:** In-depth research and personalized assistance to members on a wide variety of issues including interpretation and explanation of industry related laws, vehicle safety standards and maintenance, alcohol and drug impairment laws, MTO enforcement, licencing delays and issues, school bus driver hours of service, daily vehicle inspections, the D250 manufacturing standard, and many more!
- 3. School Bus Occupant Restraints (Seat Belts):** OSBA continues to engage with government, media and other stakeholders to address concerns raised over school bus occupant safety, specifically the issue of seat belts on school buses. OSBA participated in the study on bus safety by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities, emphasizing that school buses are the safest means of transport for school aged children and that the industry is committed to continue working proactively to get students to school safely and on time.
- 4. Cannabis Legalization:** OSBA works with a widely respected alcohol and drug policy expert and hosted a one-day workshop where attendees could learn, develop, update and explore company considerations to effectively address fitness for duty requirements in the workplace.
- 5. Eight Lamp (Amber-Red) Warning Light System:** Ongoing communications with MTO to encourage the adoption of the eight-lamp (amber and red) warning light system in Ontario, including two in-person meetings with the Minister of Transportation.
- 6. Criminal Background Check Service:** OSBA maintains its own on-line Criminal Background Check Service for Class B and E driver licences as an alternative to obtaining more expensive and complicated in-person checks, and continues to support members one-on-one in navigating the criminal background check process.
- 7. Driver Licencing Upgrades and Renewals:** OSBA assists members in navigating various complex steps needed to upgrade and renew school bus drivers' licences. In addition to one-on-one assistance when members encounter issues with medicals, background checks, DriveTest and/or the Driver Certification Program (DCP), OSBA developed a comprehensive self-guided "Checklist" to help members process licences effectively and efficiently.
- 8. Transport Canada Task Force on School Bus Safety:** When Transport Canada announced their Task Force on School Bus Safety, OSBA became an active participant via the Advisory Panel Committee. OSBA's input and feedback helps to ensure members have a voice as the Task Force examines future school bus safety aspects in Canada.
- 9. Federal School Bus Manufacturing Standards:** OSBA continues to keep members up to date on various school bus manufacturing standards such as requirements for Electronic Stability Control and stricter Emission Control Systems.
- 10. DriveClean and Heavy Vehicle Emission Testing Changes:** OSBA continues to participate in consultation sessions regarding changes to the DriveClean program for heavy vehicles. OSBA's participation ensures members are prepared for the updates and have a voice in guiding the government's emission testing regime.
- 11. Hand Held Two Way Radio Exemption:** OSBA helped secure a possible permanent exemption, allowing for the use of hand held two way radios in school buses. OSBA continues to advocate that the exemption be extended to school purpose vehicles.
- 12. Driver Retention Program (DRP):** In 2017, the Ontario Ministry of Education announced \$60 M for individual bonus payments to eligible school bus drivers in Ontario to help address province-wide driver recruitment and retention issues for the period of 2018/19. Through successful advocacy by OSBA, this program was extended for two additional periods in 2019 (September to December) and 2020 (January to June).
- 13. On-Line Webinars:** Highly informative webinars covering in excess of 20 safety and regulatory topics impacting bus operator and consortia operations.
- 14. Ontario Transportation Expo (OTE):** Educational workshops, keynote presentations and networking opportunities provided at this annual conference and trade show.
- 15. School Bus Ontario Magazine:** Comprehensive, educational articles distributed to over 6000 relevant industry contacts.
- 16. Bi-weekly, On-line Newsletter** with relevant, industry-specific news, views and regulatory information not found anywhere else!