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## News Release

September 6, 2018

### **School zones have changed a lot in the last decade, says CAA**

Today, nearly three quarters of students are driven to school, which means there has been a significant increase in vehicle traffic to school zones – bringing with it more pollution and more unsafe driving behaviours. The safety of our children, and all road users, in school zones is a top priority for CAA Saskatchewan.

There are existing dangerous behaviours in school zones as documented in a 2016 CAA poll:

- 30% of drivers reported witnessing a near miss or collision in a school zone, more than half of which involved a child.
- Nearly half of Canadians say they witnessed distracted driving in a school zone.
- 4 out of 10 Canadians say there are more unsafe driving practices in school zones today than in the past.
- 64% of Canadians say they have witnessed speeding in school zones.

#### **Tips for improving safety in school zones:**

- Keep to the posted speed limit, or slower, and note the hours of duration. A slower vehicle speed of just a few kilometres per hour considerably increases the chances of survival for a pedestrian struck by a vehicle.
- Be alert. Drivers need to be aware of the busyness of a school zone – children cycling or walking across the street - a school bus that's about to stop - other vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists on the road. It's important to eliminate distracted driving: Please put away all communications devices.
- Help reduce risks for children. It might seem obvious, but some people forget that children need to exit the car on the sidewalk side, not the traffic side. Younger children also need adults or older siblings to help them cross the street as their field of vision is limited.
- [Set up a CAA School Safety Patrol](#). Contact the CAA Saskatchewan School Safety Patrol Coordinator for details. The benefits are immense: A patrol improves safety in and around the school and it's a fantastic way for older students to learn responsibility.
- Leave home earlier to save time; that way you'll be in less of a rush as you get near the school.
- Drop the kids off a little farther from school and have them walk with an older sibling or adult the rest of the way. Some schools have set up drop-off zones in safe locations so check with your school administrator.

Visit [caask.ca/schoolzonesafety](http://caask.ca/schoolzonesafety) for further information.

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