



Media Release

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Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario School Bus Safety Week October 15 – 19, 2012

(Johnstown) – Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario (STEO), the transportation consortium for the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (CDSBEO) and the Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB), is joining other transportation consortiums and school transportation companies across Ontario, in celebrating the importance of school bus safety during *School Bus Safety Week*.

In the Ontario, over 800,000 children and teenagers ride safely, in over 18,000 school buses, each day. Studies show that school buses are the safest method for transporting young people – up to 22 times safer than passenger cars.

“Ensuring the safety of students as they enter and exit the bus is crucial,” said STEO General Manager and Chief Administrative Officer, Ron Cotnam. “We are training our bus drivers to be cautious, but we need help from parents and motorists to make sure they stop for school buses, as they load and unload children. No issue is so urgent that motorists cannot wait for a school bus.”

The law requires motorists to stop for a school bus anytime it has stopped to load or unload. In Ontario, buses display red flashing lights, and a stop sign is extended from the side of the bus, to alert motorists to stop.

Mr. Cotnam offers the following tips for students as they get on and off the bus:

- Always remain in direct view of the bus driver;
- Always cross in front of the bus, but *only* when the bus driver signals it is safe to do so;
- Always follow the driver’s directions for how to cross the street;
- Take ten giant steps back from the curb while waiting for the bus, and ten steps away when exiting the bus;
- Be alert to traffic and look both ways;
- Never try to get anything left on the bus after exiting;
- Never reach underneath the bus;
- Get to the bus stop in plenty of time.

Bus contractors throughout the region will be conducting contests and promotions in conjunction with local schools in support of School Bus Safety Week, and student safety. Police departments throughout the region will also be diligent in ensuring drivers are following all rules and laws.

To obtain additional information on school bus safety, and promotions being conducted, parents and students can access STEO’s website at www.steo.ca.

Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario operates approximately 800 school vehicles, which transport 35,000 students, across districts in Eastern Ontario.

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For more information, please call:

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