

## DISTRICT OF MAPLE RIDGE

### WALKING TO SCHOOL



### Instructions for Young Pedestrians

When walking with a child along the recommended route to school, plan to observe and discuss the following:

The proper sequence of safe street crossing behavior at unmarked and marked crossings:

1. Always stop at the curb or road edge.
2. Fully extend your right hand in front of your body, and try to make eye contact with the driver, this will give the message to drivers of your intent.
3. If a vehicle is parked at the corner, stop at the outside edge of the parked vehicle.
4. Always look left, right, and left again to see if a car is approaching.
5. Observe vehicles turning at the intersection.
6. Listen for approaching traffic.
7. If a vehicle is approaching let it pass. Then look left, right, left again.
8. Listen again for approaching traffic.
9. When safe to do so, proceed to walk (not run) across, with your hand pointing outwards.
10. Keep looking for approaching vehicles as you cross.

Crossing at a traffic signal:

1. Press the push button control for the desired crossing direction.
2. When the *WALK* signal is on, the pedestrian may enter into the crosswalk, providing vehicles at the intersection have stopped.
3. Keep looking for approaching vehicles as you cross.
4. When the *DON'T WALK* signal is flashing a pedestrian in the crosswalk should continue walking (do not run). The signal will continue to flash for a sufficient duration to allow pedestrians to complete the crossing.
5. When the *DON'T WALK* signal is flashing, pedestrians on the sidewalk must not enter the crosswalk.
6. When the *DON'T WALK* signal is in solid display, conflicting traffic is given the right of way. All pedestrians must be off the crosswalk, clear of traffic.

Emphasize that the following assumptions **CANNOT** be made:

- That the crosswalk is a safe place.
- That a driver automatically sees a crossing pedestrian and will stop or not start to move forward.
- That there is no need to observe traffic if a signal indicates *WALK*.

Walking on roadways without a sidewalk:

- Where no sidewalk exists, a pedestrian should walk along a path or on the grass boulevard as far from the travel lane as practical.
- Normally, walking on the left, facing traffic, is appropriate. An exception may be when there is no shoulder provided.

## Remember the Following:

### Under section 184 of the Provincial Motor Vehicle Act, it states:

- Where there is a sidewalk that is reasonably passable on either side of a highway, a pedestrian shall not walk on the roadway.
- Where there is no sidewalk, a pedestrian walking along or on a highway shall walk on the extreme left side of the roadway or the shoulder of the highway facing traffic approaching from the opposite direction.

### Dress Appropriately

Ensure that children are visible by having them dress appropriately. Bright colored clothing makes children more visible and clothing with reflective bands is recommended.

### Street Proof your Child

Not all of the risk to our children comes from motor vehicles. Ensure children are **street proofed** and aware of the **Block Parent Program** and the locations of Block Parent Volunteers along their route to and from school.

### Residents Responsibility

Residents have an important role in ensuring pedestrian safety. All sidewalks adjacent to residential properties should be kept clear of obstacles. Trees and shrubs should be trimmed back away from the sidewalk. Where no sidewalk exists, shoulders and boulevards should be treated in a like manner.

For further information relating to the program, contact Ruby Tam, Traffic Technician of the Safer City Program at:

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