



## **DRIVE WITH CARE FOR THE STUDENTS OUT THERE**

September 2, 2022

Kelowna, BC – Students go back to school on Tuesday and everyone's schedule will get busier, so drivers must take care to keep everyone safe. Starting on September 6, school zones are back in effect from 7:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. on school days.

Over 24,000 students will head back to class across the Central Okanagan, with over 5,000 arriving by school bus. Whether students are getting dropped off, walking, riding bikes, or getting on and off school buses, drivers need to be alert and cautious on busy streets and in school zones.

Every new school year brings preventable accidents across the province. Here are some tips to keep everyone safe:

### **Safety Tips for Drivers**

- Allow extra time for commutes to avoid rushing.
- Be aware of school zones on your route and slow down.
- It is always illegal to pass a stopped school bus.
- Be alert. Bus stops are likely filled with children waiting to catch their ride. Be on watch for kids out on the sidewalks or crossing the street.
- Go slow. When buses are present, children are present. Whether bus lights are flashing or not, it's best to slow down and watch for children and bus movements.
- Leave plenty of space. The 3m area surrounding a school bus is the most dangerous for children. Give bus drivers a wide berth and clear view of the area around them.
- Know the school bus laws. Red flashing lights and a stop sign arm extended indicate children are preparing to load or unload from the bus and are a signal for you to stop.