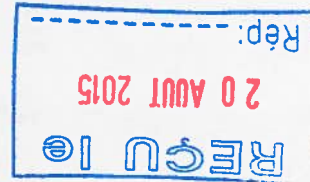


August 17, 2015

School District No. 93 - Conseil scolaire francophone  
180 10200 Shellbridge Way  
Richmond, BC V6X 2W7



Re: Safe Stop - Increase fine/penalties

Attention: Board Chairman

Safe Stop is a program that was introduced to School District No. 60 in April of this year. Its sole purpose is to remind the motoring public that driving through the flashing red lights of a school bus is both dangerous and illegal. Between April 15th and June 25th, 2015, the Transportation Department of School District No. 60 recorded every instance of motorists driving through the flashing red lights of the school buses. More than one infraction per day was recorded during this time period.

The fine for "Fail to stop for school bus" in B.C. is only \$167.00 and 3 points, to put this in perspective:

Section	Description	Fine	Points
140	Disobey Construction Signs	\$196-\$253	3
141	Disobey Flagman	\$196	3
144(1)(a)	Drive without Due Care	\$368	6
144(1)(b)	Drive without Consideration	\$196	6
147(1)	Speed in School Zone	\$196-\$253	3
147(2)	Speed in Playground Zone	\$196-\$253	3
151.1(3)	Improper use of leftmost lane	\$167	3

In Alberta, the fine associated with failing to stop for a school bus is \$400.00 and Ontario's fines range between \$400.00 and \$2000.00 depending on the amount of infractions the driver has had. Ontario has an absolute Zero Tolerance for this offense.

Drivers in British Columbia do not take this issue seriously, and it is just a matter of time before another child is injured or killed. Increasing the fine and points to \$368.00 plus 6 points is necessary to reflect the severity of the infraction.

Please lend your voice to this matter by writing letters in support of having the fine/points increased. Contact information and addresses as well as the letter that I have sent out are attached for your convenience. I would be very interested in hearing about your response (or actions) regarding this request and have also included my contact information. Thank you in advance for any consideration or support that you might lend to this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Cindy Dettling - Safe Stop Coordinator  
dettling@telus.net  
Ss2 Site 22 Comp 6  
Fort St. John, BC V1J 4M7  
250 262-9965



**Please feel free to invite other areas of local government or organizations to write letters as well.**

**CONTACT INFORMATION IN WHICH TO FORWARD LETTERS**

**Christy Clark - Premier of British Columbia  
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1**

**Honourable Suzanne Anton - Attorney General and Minister of Justice  
PO BOX 9044 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2  
Phone: 250 387-1866  
Fax: 250 387-6411**

**Honourable Todd Stone - Minister of Transportation  
PO Box 9055 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2**

**Superintendent of Motor Vehicles  
RoadSafetyBC  
PO Box 9254, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9J2**

**Honourable Mike Bernier - Minister of Education  
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2**

**Pat Pimm, MLA - Peace River North  
10104 - 100 Street  
Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Y7**

August 17th, 2015

MLA Peace River North  
10104 - 100th Street  
Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Y7  
V8W 9E2

Re: Section 149, Fail to Stop for School Bus

Attention: Pat Pimm, MLA

Please accept this letter as my formal request to have the fine associated with Section 149 "Fail to stop for School Bus" increased from \$167.00 plus 3 points, to \$368.00 plus 6 points.

To put this in perspective:

<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Fine</b>	<b>Points</b>
140	Disobey Construction Signs	\$196-\$253	3
141	Disobey Flagman	\$196	3
144(1)(a)	Drive without Due Care	\$368	6
144(1)(b)	Drive without Consideration	\$196	6
147(1)	Speed in School Zone	\$196-\$253	3
147(2)	Speed in Playground Zone	\$196-\$253	3
151.1(3)	Improper use of leftmost lane	\$167	3

Between April 15th and June 25th, 2015, the Transportation Department of School District No. 60 recorded every instance of motorists driving through the flashing red lights of the school buses. During that time, there were 50 days in which the school buses operated, and 51 infractions - at least one per day. This concern is not limited to Northern British Columbia, School District Transportation Supervisors throughout B.C. confirm that the number of "Fail to stop for School Bus" infractions is unacceptable.

At this time, the fine for driving through the flashing red lights of a school bus in BC is \$167 plus 3 points. In Alberta it's \$400 and Ontario it ranges from \$400 to \$2000 depending on the number of repeat infractions the driver has had. Jail time is also an enforcement tool in Ontario where there is a zero tolerance for this infraction.

Continued

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Accident statistics clearly show that the most dangerous part of the school bus ride, to and from school, is when the child is outside the bus, i.e. loading and unloading. Over 2200 students ride the school buses every day within our district. With the increasing number of vehicles sharing the road with school buses, more close calls or near misses are happening every day. It is important to get the word out that driving through the flashing red lights of a stopped school bus is both dangerous and illegal.

Safe Stop is a program that was introduced within School District No. 60 intended to remind motorists of the importance of stopping for the flashing red lights of the school buses. School bus drivers and administrators are doing what they can to bring this issue to the public's attention but we need help.

The penalties in BC need to be increased so that drivers take this seriously. I urge this Government to take a proactive step regarding the safety of our school bus passengers, before another child is injured or killed.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this issue and any resolution that you may come to.

Sincerely,

Cindy Dettling  
Safe Stop Coordinator  
[dettling@telus.net](mailto:dettling@telus.net)  
250 262-9965  
Ss2 Site 22 Comp 6  
Fort St John BC V1J 4M7

cc: Honourable Christy Clark, Premier  
cc: Honourable Suzanne Anton - Attorney General, Minister of Justice  
cc: Honourable Todd Stone - Minister of Transportation  
cc: Honourable Mike Bernier - Minister of Education  
cc: Superintendent of Motor Vehicles