

## OUR VIEW

# Back to school safety refresher

It's that time of year again when we all start questioning, how did summer go by that fast?

Like it or not, it's back to school, back to full work weeks, back to reality. And as we get back into the swing of full work weeks, and adjust to new school schedules, it's time we refresh our skills for sharing the road with some precious cargo.

Hundreds of school buses are returning to the road as excited children head back into the classroom, which means that the roads will look a lot different than the three-month hiatus we've just experienced.

There will be more stopping, more waiting for kids to board and unload from buses, and slower speeds to keep in mind when driving through school zones.

Do you know the rules when a school bus stops with its red lights flashing?

Here's some advice from the Ministry of Transportation.

When driving on a road without a median: drivers travelling in both directions must stop for a stopped school bus with its upper red lights flashing. When you approach the bus from the front, stop at a safe distance to let children get on or off the bus and cross the road. Don't move forward until the red lights have stopped flashing or the bus begins to move.

When driving on a road with a median: traffic coming from the opposite direction is not required to stop.

Failure to follow these rules could result in a fine up to \$2,000 and six demerit points.

Not only is it not worth the hit to your driving record, but think for a moment about the truly precious cargo we rely on school buses to transport for us five days of the week - our children.

Not only will there be a lot of excited first-time bus riders, who will be learning new rules and skills themselves this week, but more excited kids outside in general. They may be less aware of their surroundings and eager to rush across the road without looking. It means we all need to be extra attentive.

Make sure you're not distracted behind the wheel at any point, including pulling out of your driveway. Always check for children on the sidewalk, driveway and behind your vehicle before backing up.

In general, just be prepared to have a lot more patience than you may have had over the lazy days of summer. Things are about to get a lot more busy. Be safe.



## ABOUT US

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## LETTERS &amp; COMMENTARY

## Canadian government has our health in its hands

Every day, Ontario's 29,000 practising physicians go to work and provide dedicated patient care.

We're solutions-oriented individuals who want to see the best possible outcomes for our patients, without distraction. While we remain

without a contract, we recently achieved binding arbitration, and look forward to reaching a fair agreement with the province.

But we worry that a recent announcement by the federal government will jeopardize this progress, and chase away some of the country's best physicians.

On July 18, federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau launched a 75-day public consultation on tax planning using private corporations. Approximately 20,500 doctors in Ontario are incorporated.

If implemented, these proposals could make Canada an undesirable place to open a small business or for physicians to practise. Many of our rural communities still suffer from a shortage of doctors, and if these new tax measures come into effect, doctors

will simply leave the country, and new physicians will choose to practise elsewhere.

The government must take the time to listen to the impact these proposals will have on businesses throughout the nation.

Incorporation supports all small business owners including farmers, retail store owners, restaurant owners and physicians who operate a practice.

Through incorporation, entrepreneurs are able to invest in retirement and set up the benefits that many other workers in Canada get to enjoy as salaried professionals.

Opening a medical practice was attainable; doctors could focus on building a business designed to care for more patients.

Ontario's doctors face grave uncertainty after this

federal announcement.

We cannot run medical businesses and care for patients when we have to continually worry about when the next round of government action is coming.

**Dr. Raymond Torbiak,**  
*Burlington*

## What's the deal with gas prices?

On a recent trip to Northern Ontario and Winnipeg, frustration with GTA gas pricing hit a boiling point when I drove past the gas stations and regularly saw 88.9 cents per litre.

How is it possible that the GTA is charging 112.9 for the same gas from the same company in the GTA and there is no investigation into price fixing and collusion?

Enough is enough.  
**Mark Naughton**

## Letters to the Editor



See what our readers are saying about the issues that matter to them.

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