



The Union
of Nova Scotia
Municipalities

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December 6, 2010

The Honourable Bill Estabrooks
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
P.O. Box 186
Halifax, NS B3J 2N2

Dear Minister Estabrooks:

I write on behalf of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) requesting an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act to reduce speeds in school zones and child play areas to 30 km/h from the current 50 km/h (only in areas where the speed limit is already 50 km/hr). This reduction would apply during school hours, while children are going to or leaving school during opening or closing hours and events held after hours.

As the collective voice for Nova Scotia municipalities, the UNSM recognizes the importance of safer communities, particularly as it relates to helping some of our most vulnerable members of society, that of children and youth.

The World Health Organization and UNICEF in their 2008 World Report on Child Injury Prevention recommend reducing speeds to 30 km/h in residential areas and around schools and play areas to protect pedestrians. Their research indicates that a pedestrian hit by a car going 50 km/h has a 20 per cent chance of survival; when that speed is reduced to 30 km/h, the survival rate is 95 per cent.

The 30 km/h speed limit in school zones and play areas already exists in British Columbia.

Please seriously consider this request in order to offer greater protection for our children and youth.

Sincerely,

Mayor Billy Joe MacLean
UNSM President

cc: UNSM Board of Directors