



## **Student Transportation Association of Saskatchewan**

Attending Members: Past President Neal Evans, President Nick Koturbash, Director Larry Senga

Presentation to Special Committee on Traffic Safety

Concerns:

1. Public awareness of proper procedures when school bus warning lights are activated.

School bus operators often report failure of vehicles to obey the stop lights and pass the bus while it is loading/unloading students thus endangering the safety of the students. I have also seen vehicles pull over and stop when a school bus has its four way hazard lights on, confusing them with warning lights. This action causes unnecessary traffic build up and confusion for other drivers. These problems are mainly caused by lack of understanding of what is expected and the legal obligation when school bus warning lights and stop arms are activated. More public education and more emphasis in driver training programs may improve the safety of student transportation.

2. Driver Medical Requirements.

Professional drivers such as school bus drivers and truck drivers are required to pass a drivers medical examination periodically. School bus

fleet managers have expressed concerns to us of the “quality” of medical examination that is being done. In some cases it seems some fairly serious conditions that limit the ability of a person to effectively operate a school bus are overlooked and the person is given a clean bill of health to operate a school bus full of children. I have heard many stories from fleet operators that cause me to worry about safety of passengers and motorists on our roadways because of medical conditions that physicians do not report. I personally have had experiences of this type. One of my bus drivers had hip replacement surgery. He came back to work walking with two canes and seemed to have much difficulty getting into the bus. I questioned him about his ability to react to traffic conditions. He said he was capable of driving. I asked him to take a drivers medical examination. He did and passed the exam, I was very uncomfortable watching him hobble across the yard with two canes and crawl up the bus steps and drive away with a bus load of children. I also know an eighty three year old lady that recently suffered a stroke, she is in a wheel chair most of the time, walks some (very slowly) with a walker and generally is quite handicapped. She has a valid driver’s license. Her doctors have not informed SGI of her condition nor told her that she should not drive.

I believe we have a problem here!

I realize it is devastating to a senior or anyone else to lose their driving privileges and thus their independence but it is also devastating to parents and family when someone can not react in time and runs over a child on the street.

3. Other points of interest or concerns may be brought up at the meeting.