

November 7, 2011/ For Immediate Release

## **School Zones to Start Earlier in Airdrie**

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – At their regular Council meeting November 7, 2011, Airdrie City Council approved an amendment to a traffic bylaw to change the posted start time for School Zones to 7:30am from the current 8:00am. The change will take effect immediately, however Municipal Enforcement will be providing a warning period until all signage is implemented and advertising has occurred in the City.

“The change was officially requested from council after staff and members of the Traffic Advisory Committee received inquiries from residents whose children attend schools with start times shortly after 8:00am,” says Lorne Stevens, Director of Community Infrastructure, City of Airdrie.

A scheduling change within the school system created earlier start times for the 2011/2012 school year. The earlier start time for classes meant children were travelling to the school before 8:00am when the 30km/h zone took effect.

“I would like to recognize and thank Mr. Jackson’s grade 6 class from Ralph McCall School for bringing this very important issue to our attention. A few of our schools, including Ralph McCall, are located along main roads where the speed limit is 50 or 60km/h. It is important that drivers slow down around these areas to ensure our kids get to school safely,” says Mayor Peter Brown.

School zones are governed under Provincial legislation. In order to supersede Provincial legislation, an amendment to the current traffic Bylaw No. 803 needed to be approved by Council.

The City of Calgary also approved an amendment earlier this year to change their school zone start times to 7:30am.

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