

## The news we've all been waiting for! *BC's child seat laws are changing July 1, 2008*

You're probably aware of the coming amendments to Division 36 of BC's *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations*. These changes will help ensure that all children under nine years are protected by an appropriate child car seat every time they ride in a car – no matter who is driving.

The big news is the requirement for children to use a booster seat up to their ninth birthday. We are pleased to have worked together with the government of BC to create this law, which will help improve safety for many more BC kids.

### Here's a summary of the new laws.

As of July 1, 2008 all drivers\* MUST ensure that all children (under 16 years) are restrained appropriately as described below:

#### Up to one year AND 9 kg (20 lb.)

- Rear-facing child car seat
- NOT on a front seat with an active air bag



#### Over one year AND 9 kg to 18 kg (20 to 40 lb.)

- Forward-facing child car seat
- May remain rear-facing if allowed by manufacturer's weight limit



#### Over 18 kg (40 lb.) until 9th birthday unless they have reached 145 cm (4'9") in height

- Booster seat and a lap/shoulder seat belt
- May remain in forward-facing child car seat if allowed by manufacturer's weight limit
- If no lap/shoulder seat belt, must be secured without a booster seat by a lap belt



All child car seats must be used according to manufacturer's instructions and vehicle owner's manual.

Child car seats purchased outside Canada are not approved for use in BC.

**Questions? Please call the Child Seat Info Line: 1-877-247-5551.**

*\* Taxi drivers and drivers of emergency vehicles and most buses are exempt from these requirements.*

# June is Child Passenger Safety Month

The BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation has designated this June as Child Passenger Safety Month. Our objective is to ramp up our efforts to inform families, schools, daycares, community agencies and others who will be affected about the new laws. We're hoping you will take part by getting out into your community.

## What can you do?

- Provide education and information to schools, daycares, Public Health Units and other community groups. Help them plan for these upcoming changes.
- Contact your local newspaper. We will be sending out a media release to local papers in May. Ask if they have received the release and are aware of the upcoming changes in the laws.
- Partner with local police to do road side checks and hand out information.
- Organize and participate in community events to inform parents and others about these changes.



## Tools of the Trade

Contact us to get your hands on the items you need to help you spread the word about child passenger safety.

### Online resources

Available at [www.ChildSeatInfo.ca](http://www.ChildSeatInfo.ca)

- Fact sheets

### Print resources

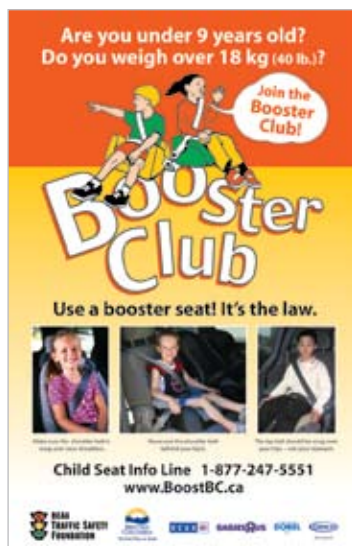
Available by calling 1-877-247-5551

### Child Passenger Safety Program

- BC's Child Car Seat Laws
- 11 x 17 poster
- Bookmark

### Boost BC

- Tattoos
- Stickers
- Activity page with parent message and club certificate
- 11 x 17 poster
- Bookmark



## Introducing our new training partner

The BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation (TSF) is pleased to announce our new partnership with the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC). At present we are offering a two-day Educator II – Technician Course through the JIBC.

There will be a grandfathering process for those who already have a St. John Ambulance or NHTSA certification. Stayed tuned for more information. In the meantime, if you have any questions, write to Marg Deibert (TSF) at [Marg.Deibert@bcaa.com](mailto:Marg.Deibert@bcaa.com).