

 **SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK FOCUSES ON DRIVERS, EDUCATION**

(TORONTO) October 14, 2021 – School Bus Safety Week is focusing in on drivers and the important role they play in the educational system. This year’s theme for Safety Week (October 18th – 22nd, 2021) is One Driver + One Bus = Big impact on Education.

To mark safety week, School Bus Ontario is recognizing four bus drivers who have gone above and beyond in their careers as school bus drivers. The four drivers are receiving the School Bus Ontario Driver Excellence Award to reward them for their hard work.

“Every school day begins and ends with a school bus. Highly skilled drivers play a critical role in getting hundreds of thousands of students to and from school safely every day and for that, we are thanking them for their role in the education system,” Said Rob Murphy, President of School Bus Ontario.

“To help keep students safe on the road, the Ford government has invested an additional $65.5 million for COVID-19 supported enhanced cleaning of buses. We have streamlined the prosecution of school bus-related driving offences caught on camera to ensure reckless drivers are held to account,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. “Our government supports School Bus Safety Week, along with the women and men who safely transport Ontario’s students to school each and every day,” said Minister Lecce.

“School buses are the safest form of student transportation.  Statistics derived from the**National Collision Database** show that children who travel to school by school bus are 72 times safer than those traveling to school by car; and 45 times safer than those walking and cycling to school,” said Murphy.

“Over 833,000 students are transported daily in Ontario and the buses travel1.8 million kilometers each day – equivalent to 40 times around the world every day which shows how important drivers are to the overall education of students in Ontario,” said Renee Boucher, Chair of the Ontario Association of School Business Officials Transportation Committee.

“Thank you to the drivers for all of the hard work and ensuring Ontario’s children get to and from school safely each and every day.” Said Murphy.

 -30-