



## **Crosswalk Safety Facts**

Effective June 1, 2008, the province has made a number of amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act to clarify the roles and responsibilities of motorists and pedestrians. Once proclaimed, these amendments will change legislation to;

- Add the definition of a pedestrian activated beacon.
- Clarify that it is an offence to begin to cross a street when the “don’t walk” symbol starts to flash.
- Require motorists to yield to pedestrians standing within the crosswalk, or a pedestrian who has stopped at the curb facing the crosswalk.
- Provide clearer direction to motorists and pedestrians on right of way where a highway/ street is divided, into two separate roadways. The motorist is only required to yield to a pedestrian that is crossing on the same roadway on which the motorist is driving.
- Require pedestrians to make sure it is safe for him/her to enter the street. It also requires the pedestrian to make sure any approaching vehicles have enough time to stop before the pedestrian begins crossing the street.
- Require pedestrians to ensure the flashing amber lights have been activated before they begin crossing the street.
- Require pedestrians crossing a street, at any location other than a crosswalk, to yield the right-of-way to vehicles on the street.
- Require both motorists and pedestrians to exercise due care when on the streets. Both parties must ensure their actions do not endanger others.

Motorists and pedestrians who fail to abide by the Motor Vehicle Act are subject to penalties such as fines, demerit points, and/or suspensions.