



LONDON BLOCK PARENT PROGRAM

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Dear Mayor Fontana and City Councillors,

Re: Elimination of Nine London School Crossing Guards

The London Block Parent® Program values safety and is committed to make London a safer community to live, work and play by empowering London citizens to contribute to the safety of their neighbourhood. This aligns with the City of London's priorities, "*London neighbourhoods will be empowered, sustainable, safe and active communities.*"

As a longstanding safety organization, we are concerned about the elimination of nine school crossing guards. These are high traffic areas and if removed, pose an increased risk of injury to children.

In our daily effort to keep children safe and active, we also feel this will force more parents to drive their children to and from school to ensure their safety. The 2014 Active Healthy Kids Canada Report Card indicates that Canada's overall physical activity levels are at a D-. Canada also trails behind most countries in active transportation. The report card also states 62% of Canadian parents say their children 5-17 years are always driven to and from school whether by car or bus, etc.

In addition to our safety concerns, we would also like to advocate for better communication between City Council, the Community and Protective Services Committee and the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee, with respect to recommendations made regarding the safety of children.

We request you please reconsider the recommendation to remove the nine school crossing guards in order to keep London's children safe and active.

Thank you for your consideration with this matter.

Sincerely,
Maureen O'Halloran
Executive Director, London Block Parent® Program