



School Bus Driver Safety Day

(February 16, 2006) – Bus Drivers in the Rainy River District will take advantage of the first annual Bus Safety Workshop that will be held at Fort Frances High School on February 18, 2006.

The Rainy River District School Board is providing the workshop to Bus Drivers. Over 60 drivers are expected to participate and include those for the Northwest Catholic District School Board, First Nations Bands and Bus Drivers for public schools across the district from Rainy River to Atikokan. They transport students within the towns, from rural areas and for field trips.

School buses carry precious cargo, and the people who drive them carry the responsibility for making sure that school bus travel remains a safe way for children to travel. There are 7,000 kilometres traveled each day by the district's cautious bus drivers.

The school bus is an extension of the classroom. Drivers are responsible for the physical and emotional safety of the children who ride on their bus, as well as for their own safety. The child should be confident that the bus is a safe place.

The Rainy River District School Board is committed to an Anti-Bullying curriculum and a presentation will be provided from the Rainy River District School Board's STAR program – *Dealing with Bullies* by Mary Lynne Bondett, Teacher/Trainer, J. W. Walker School.

Lori Green, from the Northwestern Health Unit, will provide training on Anaphylactic Shock Procedure and the use of an epi-pen. Anaphylaxis is an allergic reaction that can lead to a life threatening situation.

Donna Lee, Transportation Officer for the Rainy River District School Board along with Ciara MacRory, Transportation Clerk, will take the opportunity to provide a review of driver responsibilities in accordance with relevant policies and procedures. "This will also be an opportunity to express our appreciation to all the bus drivers for their hard work and dedication in ensuring the safe travel of our students to and from school," said Transportation Officer Donna Lee.

Drivers will also receive a refresher on the *Circle Check*, a thorough stationary and operating inspection of the vehicle, both inside and out.

The Rainy River District School Board currently provides a First Rider program for kindergarten students each August prior to the start of the school year. Annually, students in the district take part in National Bus Safety Week, which takes place in October.