



REPORT

Recognition of Excellence

***Kiss 'n Ride Program
Robert Moore & J.W. Walker Schools***



RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Kiss 'n Ride Program

J.W. Walker School and Robert Moore School

The Rainy River District School Board, J.W. Walker School Principal and Robert Moore School Principal, along with community partner from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), would like to highlight and recognize all of the partners and volunteers who supported the Kiss 'n Ride Program and our goal to improve the safety of children attending our schools. The Fort Frances Traffic Safety Committee (FFTSC) proposed that the Kiss 'n Ride program be implemented in order to address safety concerns. Kiss 'n Ride has operated successfully in parts of the United States and Canada including six different sites in Thunder Bay, ON. Tom Marinis, MTO Road Safety Program Manager, and FFTSC partner, has worked on all six Thunder Bay Kiss 'n Ride projects and worked with FFTSC on the Fort Frances project. This project has demonstrated a positive change to address safety concerns in Fort Frances and has impacted our entire community.

The Fort Frances Traffic Safety Committee (FFTSC) consisting of The Town of Fort Frances, Rainy River District School Board, Northwest Catholic District School Board, OPP, MTO Road Safety, Safe Communities Rainy River District, public health, seniors, law enforcement, school administration, bus companies and parent councils worked towards the goal of increasing student safety by reducing traffic congestion around Fort Frances schools. The overall mandate of the project collaboration was and is to reduce prevent student injury and improve traffic safety through education, public awareness, advocacy and enforcement.

Historically, the elementary schools had been working independently with their community partners including the police, to try and address the traffic congestion concerns specifically during drop off and pick up times. Vehicles and buses at these two busy times were putting children and motorists alike at risk of harm of collisions. In the past, each school had implemented several methods to address the safety concerns including education, awareness and enforcement but those options did not address the traffic congestion. As the FFTSC grew from an independent town committee into a community wide partnership, the school congestion issue was brought to the partnerships' attention. The FFTSC came together representing over 20 organizations and specialty fields around the table to engage a community approach to help solve the problem together.