



MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Is Your Child Safe in Your Car? This Child Safety Week focuses on Child Passenger Safety

May 28, 2011 (Toronto, ON) – May 30th – June 5th, 2011 is Child Safety Week, this year the focus is on Child Passenger Safety. Many expecting parents are diligent in seeking the best car seat on the market to ensure the safety of their anticipated bundle of joy. Unfortunately even the top of the line models are not adequate if they are not installed properly.

Statistics drawn from car seat clinics across Ontario have shown that as many as four out of five car seats are installed incorrectly. This installation error can have tragic consequences. According to Health Canada vehicle collisions are the number one cause of death in children ages one to nine.

Loss of life and serious injury are not only attributed to an improper installation, but also an early transition from car seat to seat belts. Parents/guardians, grandparents and care givers should be aware that children under the age of nine (more accurately anyone under 36kg/80lb, or under 145cm/4'9"ft tall) still require a child restraint system. The stages include:

- Birth to 9kg (20lbs), rear facing car seat
- 9kg – 18kg (20lbs – 40lbs), forward facing car seat
- 18kg – 36kg (40lbs – 80lbs), booster seat with lap and shoulder belt
- 36kg (80lbs) and up, lap and shoulder belt

To address this growing safety concern, St. John Ambulance runs car seat clinics across the province to assist parents/guardians with properly installing the seats. These clinics are highly recommended for parents/guardians, grandparents and care givers, anyone who will be transporting a child in their vehicle. The clinics are highly instructional and involve a lot of hands on learning to reinforce skills. That way if a person ever has to change the vehicle the child is travelling in they can do so without worrying that the unit isn't properly installed. Our highly knowledgeable installers will also help you identify potential hazards in your car including things such as loose items or window shades.

St. John Ambulance Car Seat Clinics run frequently, but those not wishing to be disappointed should book in advance. We highly recommend expecting parents book their appointments well in advance of the baby's due date. St. John Ambulance Car Seat Clinics are a free service run by our highly trained volunteers. Donations are appreciated. For more information, please visit www.sja-mississauga.ca and contact your local Branch Office.

For over 125 years St. John Ambulance has been teaching first aid in Ontario. Today we train over 155,000 Ontarians annually in first aid and other health care related courses and remains dedicated to saving lives at work, home and play. With over 4,000 volunteers contributing over half a million hours of community service a year, St. John Ambulance is an integral part of the community offering such unique and innovative programs as; medical first response, disaster response, car seat clinics, health and safety related youth programs and therapy dog services. As a charitable, humanitarian organization, proceeds from St. John Ambulance's first aid training and first aid product sales directly support these vital community services programs. For more information on St. John Ambulance training courses and volunteer opportunities or to contact your local branch, visit www.sja-mississauga.ca.