

WALK TO SCHOOL EVENTS A SUCCESS
October 3, 2007

Thousands of students from more than 130 schools across the province are walking or wheeling to school this week as part of International Walk to School Week, which kicks off Walk to School Month. The theme this year is Walk for Clean Air and the Climate

Park West School in Halifax held its walk to school event this morning along with special guests. This school is working closely with the Active & Safe Routes to School program to address safety concerns in the neighbourhood. Their aim is to encourage more students to walk or bike instead of being driven to school in the family car.

International Walk to School Week, from Monday, Oct. 1 to Friday, Oct. 5, promotes walking as a more environmentally sustainable form of transportation. It also promotes safer streets and daily physical activity by encouraging students, staff and parents to walk or cycle to school.

"Walk to School Week is a perfect example of what Nova Scotian students can do to reduce our environmental footprint," said Mark Parent, Minister of Environment and Labour. "I encourage all students to lace up their sneakers and participate in this fun and worthwhile activity."

The event is organized by the Active & Safe Routes to School program of the Ecology Action Centre and sponsored by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour and the Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion and Protection.

"Walking to school and in our communities is one concrete and easy way children, youth and their families can improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change," says Janet Barlow, Coordinator of Active & Safe Routes to School. "Walk to School Week is a chance to shine a light on the need to get folks out of their cars and using their own two feet."

Barlow encourages schools to participate in the Quarters for the Climate fundraising challenge this month as a fun way to walk, raise money and help protect our climate. Students at participating schools collect quarters for one day, one week or all month long. Proceeds go to Active & Safe Routes to School to help more students walk & wheel safely to school.

Active & Safe Routes to School is coordinated by the Ecology Action Centre in partnership with the Department of Health Promotion and Protection as part of the Active Kids, Healthy Kids initiative.

FOR BROADCAST USE:

Thousands of students walked or biked to school today (October 3rd) as part of International

Walk to School Week activities throughout Nova Scotia, as a kick off for Walk to School Month.

In Halifax, students from Park West School walked to school with special guests to

celebrate efforts that school is making to help more students walk to school on a regular basis.

It's one of more than 130 schools in the province that participated in this week's event, with a

theme of Walk for Clean Air and the Climate.

Mark Parent, Minister of Environment and Labour, encourages students across the province

to help reduce our environmental footprint by lacing up and participating.

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