



## Renfrew County and District Health Unit

### Media Release

**For Immediate Release: December 5, 2016**

### ***Leave the Phone Alone Campaign*** **Focus On: Young Drivers**

#### **DriveWise Driver Safety Awareness Program in Renfrew County High Schools**

The Renfrew County Partners Against Distracted Driving Committee has been successful in obtaining a Ministry of Transportation Road Safety Community Partnership Program grant to facilitate a campaign to address the dangers of distracted driving.

This grant, in addition to contributions from community partners and some municipalities will fund a county- wide community education program called *Leave the Phone Alone*.

Distracted driving is a major safety concern and has now surpassed impaired driving as the leading cause of motor vehicle collisions that cause fatalities.

The grant will fund an interactive computer simulator presentation to all 2,000 Grade 11 and 12 students. Every high school across the county will receive a *Leave the Phone Alone* While Driving pledge banner for students to sign and for the school to keep. Students will also receive *Leave the Phone Alone* lanyards.

To reinforce the message, forty *Leave the Phone Alone* signs will be installed across Renfrew County. All municipalities will be receiving road signs to encouraging drivers to *Leave the Phone Alone* while driving.

The Renfrew County Partners Against Distracted Driving Committee consists of members that represent the Ontario Provincial Police, Community Policing Advisory Committees, Police Service Boards and Renfrew County and District Health Unit.

To learn more or to take the *Leave the Phone Alone* pledge visit [www.leavethephonealone.ca](http://www.leavethephonealone.ca)  
To learn more about the interactive computer simulator presentation visit [www.drivewisesafety.com](http://www.drivewisesafety.com)

This message was sent on behalf of the Renfrew County Partners Against Distracted Driving Committee.

-30-

#### **For more information:**

Brian Brohart  
Health Promoter  
Renfrew County and District Health Unit  
[bbrohart@rcdhu.com](mailto:bbrohart@rcdhu.com)  
613-735-8651 ext. 545

Raili Quathamier  
Public Health Nurse  
Renfrew County and District Health Unit  
[rquathamier@rcdhu.com](mailto:rquathamier@rcdhu.com)  
613-735-8651 ext. 533