

**Submission from Canadian International School of Hong Kong** CB(1)2038/09-10(07)**To****The Legislative Council of  
The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region****Bills Committee on Motor Vehicle Idling (Fixed Penalty) Bill****Wednesday, May 26, 2010**

The school community of the Canadian International School Of Hong Kong, representing over 1700 local and ex-patriot students, their families, and over 300 staff, strongly supports the introduction of the Motor Vehicle Idling (Fixed Penalty) Bill as the health and safety of the community, in addition to its academic development, is part of our responsibility. Air pollution in Hong Kong, with its components of cross-border and local pollutants, is now a public health crisis, with the young and elderly being particularly susceptible to the constantly unhealthy air in Hong Kong. Emissions from local transportation are what strongly concern our school community as the traffic surrounding the School contributes significantly to our immediate health and well-being, but has an effect on long term health as well. The exhaust fumes from private cars, trucks, taxis and busses surround the School while children aged 5 to 18 make their way to and from, and play at, the School. This is a daily occurrence across the entire Hong Kong SAR, resulting in adverse effects on the developing arteries, lungs and heart of hundreds of thousands of young children, pregnant mothers visiting schools and the occupants of the vehicles, causing lowered immunity, wheezing and coughing, and increased rates of asthma. The Heat Island Effect experienced so pervasively in Hong Kong contributes to prolonged exposure since the accumulating gases are not dispersed by wind. The combination of these factors may result in a long term burden on the Hong Kong SAR Government if these generations grow up with deteriorated cardiovascular systems. As private cars, mini busses and taxis used by the school community are the main sources of vehicle exhaust in school zones, the Bill would oblige them to change their behaviour and attitude towards vehicle exhaust and pollution, requiring them to turn off their engines while waiting, thereby significantly reducing the immediate air pollution faced by all school communities as traffic wardens/police would then have a means of enforcement. Currently they do not, and drivers exploit that fact.

Efforts by the School to seek the co-operation of drivers have resulted in limited improvement as drivers insist on their right to do what they want on a public road that isn't under a school's jurisdiction, regardless of the fact that students are children of those drivers. A law such as this would require drivers to be more responsible with the privilege of driving afforded them. This Bill would result in an historic law in Hong Kong, bringing it up to par with other international cities, and allowing it to live up to its claim as Asia's World City.

The care of our immediate surroundings, and of the greater environment, is something schools instill in their communities; we at Canadian International School of Hong Kong take the responsibility of providing a clean, safe environment for our community extremely seriously, thus seek the co-operation of the Hong Kong SAR Government in fulfilling this duty. It would set an example for students of environmental responsibility, while not passing it risks setting a bad example about their civic responsibility, sustainable living and lowering carbon footprints.