Chapter 3:
Signs, Pavement Markings and Work Zones
Traffic lights are placed at busy intersections to make them safer. Both drivers and pedestrians must obey traffic lights, except in cases when a police/traffic officer directs otherwise.

**GREEN LIGHTS**
One of the most important misconceptions is that the green light gives the driver an absolute right-of-way. The green signal is only a qualified permission to proceed carefully in the direction permitted by the signal. It does not give you the right to rush into an intersection without regard for the safety of others. When the green light is in your favour, observe the following:
- Yield the right-of-way to any other vehicles lawfully within an intersection, and to pedestrians within the crosswalk.
- Proceed only in the direction of the “green arrow” when a “green arrow” signal is accompanied by a red light.
- When turning right or left you must yield the right-of-way to any pedestrians who are within your half of the roadway, or so close that there may be danger of a collision.
- Do not enter an intersection unless you are certain of clearing it before the next change of signal lights.

**AMBER LIGHTS**
The purpose of the amber light is to allow persons within the intersection to clear the intersection before the light changes.

Whenever you are approaching an intersection controlled by traffic signal lights, be alert to the fact that the lights may change against you.
Chapter 3: Traffic Signals

Have your car under control, and never speed up as you approach an intersection. Try to be aware of traffic lights at least a block ahead of you in order to anticipate that a green light may change before you get there. It is a violation of the *Highway Traffic Act* to enter an intersection on an amber light, unless stopping cannot be done safely.

**RED LIGHT**
A red light means you must bring your vehicle to a stop at a clearly marked stop line or, if none, at the nearest crosswalk or, if none, before entering the intersection.

Wait until the signal changes to green before proceeding through the intersection unless signs or signals permit special movements of traffic to proceed.

**RIGHT TURNS AT RED LIGHT**
A right turn is permitted at a red light after making a complete stop, providing there is no sign prohibiting a turn, and subject to the right-of-way of pedestrians or other traffic in or approaching the intersection.

Do not impede or hold up traffic behind you after you have stopped and the way is clear safely proceed.

**FLASHING RED LIGHT**
A flashing red light means you must bring your vehicle to a complete stop and proceed only when it is safe to do so.

The flashing red light may be an overhead light, a standard traffic signal light or a beacon located directly above a stop sign.
Chapter 3: Traffic Signals

**FLASHING AMBER LIGHT**
A flashing amber light means caution. When facing a flashing amber light, slow down and be prepared to stop.

**SCHOOL SIGNAL LIGHTS**
At many points where traffic is heavy, signal lights have been placed at intersections and between intersections to make crossing of these streets safer for children. These signals are in operation when children are going to or from school. There may be advance warning signs before the signal light.

**RAILROAD CROSSING LIGHTS**
Although there are no railways in Prince Edward Island, extra caution should be taken by drivers when driving outside of Prince Edward Island. Signal lights or warning lights flash when a train is approaching. When approaching a railway crossing where a signal device is warning of the approach of a train, you must stop not less than five metres (15 feet) from the nearest rail. The same rule applies when a flagperson signals that a train is coming.

The deadliest of all highway collisions occur between a motor vehicle and a train. Public highway/railway crossings are marked with signs, and may also have mechanical or electrical warning devices. Learn what they are and watch for them.

**ADVANCE WARNING SIGNS**
These signs tell you to look, listen and slow down because you may have to stop. There may be an advisory speed tab erected below the advance warning sign to show that the safe road speed is less than the posted speed. The advance warning sign also advises the driver of the angle it crosses the road.
Chapter 3: Traffic Signals

- **PAVEMENT MARKINGS**
  Pavement markings consist of an “X” and/or STOP line that may be painted on the pavement at the approach to highway/railway crossings.

- **RAILWAY CROSSING SIGNS**
  Railway crossing signs are found at all public highway/railway crossings. A railway crossing sign means drivers must yield to all trains. If there is more than one track, the sign below the railway crossing sign indicates the number of tracks.

- **RAILWAY CROSSING SIGNS WITH A STOP SIGN**
  If a stop sign is erected at a highway/railway crossing, the driver must stop no closer than five metres (15 feet) and no further than 15 metres (45 metres) from the nearest rail. Drivers must not proceed until they can do so safely.

- **RAILWAY CROSSING SIGNS WITH FLASHING LIGHTS AND BELL**
  If flashing lights and bell are erected at a highway/railway crossing, the driver must stop when the lights and bell are activated because this means that a train is approaching. All drivers must stop at the stop line painted on the roadway or if none exists, no closer than five metres (15 feet) from the nearest rail. Do not proceed until the lights and bell have stopped, the train has passed or until you can do so safely. If there is more than one track, make sure all the tracks are clear before crossing.

**CROSSWALKS**
Crosswalks are provided at intersections and other locations where they may be required by the volume of vehicles and pedestrians.
CROSSWALKS AT INTERSECTIONS
Crosswalks connect sidewalks on each side of the roadway indicating the path that pedestrians are to follow when crossing the street. At intersections without traffic signals drivers are required to stop when a pedestrian enters the crosswalk on or close to the side of the roadway that the driver is using.

SCHOOL CROSSWALKS
School crosswalks are provided where the school or community posts a crossing guard to control the students and traffic in order to provide a safe time for the students to cross. When a school crossing guard is posted, drivers must stop when signalled to do so by the crossing guard and remain stopped until the crosswalk is clear and the guard has left the crosswalk.

SPECIAL CROSSWALKS
Overhead signs and flashing amber beacons provide greater warning to drivers especially on multi-lane streets. When special crosswalks are installed and beacons are activated by pedestrians, the drivers must stop before entering the crosswalk when the beacons are flashing.

CROSSWALKS WITH TRAFFIC SIGNALS
Where crosswalks are equipped with traffic signals, the driver must respond to the traffic signals.

PAVEMENT MARKINGS
Pavement markings are placed on a highway to indicate to the driver where the driving lanes are and markings provide any additional information which may be appropriate.
Chapter 3: Traffic Signals

YELLOW LINES
Yellow lines are used to separate traffic travelling in the opposite directions. The yellow line must always be on the left of the driver except when passing another vehicle. Yellow lines are also used to mark the left shoulder on ramps and multi-lane highways. Solid yellow lines indicate that passing is not safe at the location. Broken yellow lines indicate that passing is permitted if there is no opposing traffic.

WHITE LINES
White lines are used to separate traffic lanes in the same direction and to mark the right shoulder line along the roadway. Shoulder lines are solid except at intersections where they are turned onto the other roadway or become broken at a ramp. Solid lines indicate that lane changes should not be made. Broken lines indicate that lane changes may occur with the proper precautions.

White lane lines at intersections may be wider and shorter with shorter spaces to emphasize that vehicles will be merging, changing lanes, accelerating and braking in order to make the desired manoeuvres. Drivers should be alert to traffic changing lanes at these locations.
Chapter 3: Traffic Signals

DIAGONAL MARKINGS/CROSSHATCHES
Diagonal markings/crosshatches may be used in advance of traffic islands, merging areas, lane transitions or medians to warn traffic that the paved area is not intended for use as a traffic lane. Drivers should not use such areas as traffic lanes and should observe the colour of the markings and keep to the appropriate side.

STOP LINES
Stop lines may be painted on the highway’s surface at intersections to indicate to a driver the appropriate locations to stop. The driver should stop so that the front of the vehicle does not extend beyond the stop lines. Stop lines are always white. Stop signs do not show where to stop.

CROSSWALK LINES
Crosswalk lines are painted on the highway surface to indicate the location of a crosswalk. When a stop is required and there is a crosswalk without a stop line, a driver must stop his/her vehicle before any part of it extends into the crosswalk. Crosswalk lines are always white.

INTERSECTION ARROWS
Intersection arrows may be used in advance of an intersection to indicate which lane the driver must be in to make a specific manoeuvre. Intersection arrows are always white.
Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

Along with traffic signal lights, traffic signs provide for the safe and efficient movement of traffic. There are several different types of traffic signs, including regulatory, warning, construction and information signs. The shape and colour of each sign, as well as the message printed on it, carry a message for the driver. For instance, red is used to indicate prohibited manoeuvres while green designates permitted movements. Stop signs always have an eight-sided shape, yield signs are always triangular in shape and speed limit signs are always a vertical rectangle. Each shape carries a distinctive meaning so that if darkness or falling rain or snow obscure the lettering, the safety message can still be identified.

All Canadian provinces and territories use uniform traffic signs. In most instances these are the same as those used in the United States, making driving easier and safer for all. Familiarize yourself with them, so that you will be ready to recognize their message and be prepared to obey their direction.

**SIGN SHAPES AND THEIR MEANINGS**

- **Stop**
  - White Letters on Red Background
  - Make a complete stop at the clearly marked stop line, or before entering the crosswalk, or in places...
where there are no stop lines or crosswalks, before entering the intersection.

• Look right and left and ahead and yield to traffic and pedestrians before proceeding.

**Yield Sign - Red on White**

• Slow down when approaching this sign.
• Look left and right and ahead and yield to traffic and pedestrians.
• Stop when necessary to avoid pedestrians or traffic.

**Vertical Rectangle**

White with black or other coloured lettering; these regulatory signs state the law, such as speed limits, parking regulations and turning and passing movements.

• This sign is used to indicate streets or highways upon which the traffic is allowed in one direction only.

• This sign indicates the street or highway is divided by an island and approaching vehicles must keep to the right.

• This sign is on the right-hand side of the roadway facing traffic entering the roadway or ramp in the wrong direction. A white on red WRONG WAY sign may be placed further down the prohibited direction.

**PLAYGROUND WARNING SIGN**
Reduce speed and be prepared to make an emergency stop as children may run onto the roadway.
Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

CONSTRUCTION SIGNS
Traffic can expect to be delayed due to construction repair operations. Please obey the flagperson’s signal. Speed limits in construction zones must be obeyed at all times, even when workers and equipment are not working. Construction hazards such as bumps, detours, fresh oil and loose gravel may still be present.
Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

CONSTRUCTION SIGNS CONTINUED...

Uneven lanes

Low shoulder ahead. Difference in elevation due to construction

High shoulder ahead. Difference in elevation due to construction

DETOUR

TAR

Detour ahead

Tar construction ahead

Traffic control person ahead

INFORMATION SIGNS

Guide signs are essential to guide the motorist along established roads, to inform of intersecting roads, and generally to give such information as will help the driver in the most simple, direct method possible. These signs are square in shape. They indicate the location of various facilities.

- gas
- food
- lodging
- telephone
- campground
- trailer park
- picnic tables
- hospital zone
Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

REGULATORY SIGNS

- No left turn permitted
- No U-turn permitted
- Do not enter
- No stopping permitted
- Passing permitted
- Do not litter

airport
ferry
PEI highway route
Trans-Canada Highway
Police post sign
PEI place name
POLICE
MONTAGUE
Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

REGULATORY SIGNS CONTINUED...

- No parking in either direction
- One way
- Do not enter
- Keep to the right of traffic island
- Indicates only the turns permitted
- Maximum speed limit ahead
- Truck route
- No turns
- No right on red signal
- Hazard warnings
- Drive to the direction the slopes are pointing
- School zone
- Access for the physically challenged
Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

REGULATORY SIGNS CONTINUED...

MAXIMUM 10 t

Weight

Parking

Amber Lights - when activated, slow down and be prepared to stop

Red Lights - when activated and flashing red, all traffic MUST stop

School bus stop ahead

Dangerous goods route

Dangerous goods prohibited

Cul-de-sac

Snowmobile route

Snowmobile restricted
Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

WARNING SIGNS

These guide drivers around sharp curves
Hidden intersection ahead
Merge
Narrow bridge
Low clearance Underpass ahead
Divided highway ahead
Steep incline ahead
Bumpy or rough road ahead
Road narrows ahead
Divided highway ends
Right lane ends
Stop sign ahead
Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

WARNING SIGNS CONTINUED...

Traffic signal lights ahead
Slippery when wet
Truck entering
Sharp turn or bend in the roadway ahead
Right curve ahead
Posted speed sign indicates safe speed for this turn
School bus entrance

Bridge opening ahead
Fire truck entrance ahead
Road narrows ahead
Snowmobile entrance
Bridge freezes
Bicycle crossing
Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

WARNING SIGNS CONTINUED...

- Pavement ends
- T intersection
- Double arrow

LANE ARROWS

- Left turn only
- Right turn only
- Straight through or left turn only
- Straight through or right turn only
- Right or left turn only
- All movements permitted

Truck Inspection Station
Truck Inspection Station advance
Truck Inspection Station exit
Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

LANE ARROWS CONTINUED...

- Straight through only
- Side-mounted multiple lane designation
- Side-mounted multiple lane designation
- Side-mounted multiple lane designation
- Side-mounted multiple lane designation
- Side-mounted multiple lane designation
- Side-mounted multiple lane designation
- Two-way left-turn lane
Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

CHANGE LANE DESTINATION LIGHTS

Steady through green arrow

Flashing green arrow

Steady amber arrow

Transit priority signal

Steady through this lane

Flashing/steady red X
Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

RAILWAY SIGNS

Crossbuck
Indicates number of tracks to cross
Posted in advance of a railway crossbuck

CROSSWALK SIGNS

School crosswalk
Pedestrian crosswalk
Pedestrian pushbutton

ADDITIONAL SIGNS

Wide load/oversized
Cycling prohibited
Pedestrians prohibited
Slow moving vehicle
Reserved bicycle lane
Littering prohibited
Chapter 3: Traffic Signs