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Pedestrian crossing rules confusing

David Motion / North Shore News

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West Vancouver - Dear Editor: Re: Decoy Pedestrian Raises Ire, Nov. 30 new story.

Reading Mr. Duff's comments about being fined for failing to yield for a pedestrian "properly" raises a few questions. The entrapment part of his complaint bothers me not at all; if you break the law you deserve the fine. However, should he be charged for

not yielding to a pedestrian who has already crossed in front of him and reached a median? Was he supposed to wait until the pedestrian reached the far curb? I can only imagine the traffic tie-up that would cause in Dundarave.

I am a very active walker. When I need to cross the street and have stepped off the curb I expect traffic to stop for me. If I have not stepped off, I do not expect traffic to stop. Frequently I can see there is only one vehicle on the street and it is far simpler for me to wait until it has passed and I can cross the street at my own pace.

Why should a driver have to waste gas stopping and waiting when it is obvious the pedestrian can cross after he has passed? I have been so annoyed by drivers stopping

when I am just watching the traffic for a good opportunity I have started to turn my back so they can see I have no intention of crossing in front of them.

I also am a frequent driver. I stop for pedestrians who have or are stepping off the curb. If they have crossed in front of me and are on the other side of the street walking away from me I proceed. Sounds like I am cruising for a ticket.

I would appreciate an article about what exactly are the obligations of the driver and pedestrian.

David Motion

West Vancouver

Misleading: it should say "fully crossed the street on the half of the highway on which the vehicle is travelling" - CJK - see extract of Motor Vehicle Act below

Editor's note: When asked, Harvey Kooner, ICBC's road safety co-ordinator for the Lower Mainland region, sent this email reply: "As per the sections below from the Motor

Vehicle Act, a pedestrian has to fully cross the street prior to the vehicle commencing." To read the sections, go to bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/96318_05.

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Rights of way between vehicle and pedestrian (see www.quickscribe.bc.ca/secure/pdfs/110.pdf)

179. (1) Subject to section 180, the driver of a vehicle must yield the right of way to a pedestrian where traffic control signals are not in place or not in operation when the pedestrian is crossing the highway in a crosswalk **and the pedestrian is on the half of the highway on which the vehicle is travelling**, or is approaching so closely from the other half of the highway that he or she is in danger.

(2) A pedestrian must not leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is so close it is impracticable for the driver to yield the right of way.

(3) If a vehicle is slowing down or stopped at a crosswalk or at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the highway, the driver of a vehicle approaching from the rear must not overtake and pass the vehicle that is slowing down or stopped.

(4) A pedestrian, cyclist or the driver of a motor vehicle must obey the instructions of an adult school crossing guard and of a school student acting as a member of a traffic patrol where the guards or students are

(a) provided under the *School Act*,

(b) authorized by the chief of police of the municipality as defined in section 36 (1),

(c) if located on treaty lands, authorized by the chief of the police force responsible for policing the treaty lands.

RS1979-288-181; 1989-61-207; 2007-36-133 (B.C. Reg. 55/2009).