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SLOW DOWN, 'CHILD' AHEAD



A 3-D illusion of a small girl chasing a ball will appear in West Vancouver as part of a week-long road safety campaign.

School zone illusion will test drivers in West Vancouver

BY JES ABEITA
VANCOUVER SUN

A little girl running into the street in a West Vancouver school zone will be run over next week. Or so it will appear.

In fact, she's an optical illusion. She's painted on the pavement but, from a distance, will appear to drivers as an upright, three-dimensional figure.

She is a project of the West Vancouver police and the

Community Against Preventable Injuries — preventable.ca — which promotes public safety.

The girl's image will be applied to the road in a school zone on 22nd Street just north of Inglewood Avenue, near Ecole Pauline Johnson school, on Tuesday.

Preventable.ca is paying for the \$15,000 project.

Drivers will be warned that something unusual may happen by signs saying "You're probably not expecting kids to run into the road," said David Dunne, a

preventable.ca spokesman and director of road safety strategies for the B.C. Automobile Association.

As drivers approach, what appears at first to be a blob of colour in the road will become a little girl chasing a ball into the street, Dunne said.

The idea is to enhance pedestrian safety by jarring drivers out of their routines.

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Speeders beware

- Drivers caught going 40 km/h over the limit will have their cars impounded for up to 60 days.
- Flagging is a perilous job, WorkSafe BC says. » A2

Liberal official withdraws demand that Hansen quit

Head of Rich Coleman's riding association blogged that minister's credibility was 'shot'

BY JONATHAN FOWLIE
VANCOUVER SUN

VICTORIA — The B.C. Liberal Party experienced a brief but significant crack in party solidarity Thursday as the president of a prominent cabinet minister's riding association issued a public call for the resignation of Finance Minister Colin Hansen over his handling of the HST.

Hours later, after a firestorm of media coverage, the posting was pulled down and replaced with a full apology and retraction that blamed the news media for "unfair" coverage that left the wrong impression about Hansen and the HST.

In his initial blog entry posted Thursday morning, Jordan Bateman said the "handling and implementation of the HST has been one blunder after another," adding that Hansen's credibility is now "completely shot."

"Minister Colin Hansen should resign," he wrote.

Bateman is in his second term as president of Housing and Social Development Minister Rich Coleman's Fort Langley-Aldergrove riding association. His term ends on Sept. 11, and on Thursday he said he will not be continuing in the role after that.

Bateman is also a local wedding chaplain and a councillor in the Township of Langley.

In an interview with *The Vancouver Sun* on Thursday morning, Bateman ardently stood by the Web posting.

"I support the party and I

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certainly support our MIA, Rich Coleman. But this HST has just been mishandled from the very beginning," said Bateman.

"It seems like every week there's more mistakes and more bizarre things that occur and I just don't think that the finance ministry has the credibility now that [he] once had," he added.

Bateman said his only hesitancy in posting the entry on his blog "was concern that this could somehow affect Langley, although I think we're mature enough to realize that no government is perfect and we need to work through these issues together."

Within hours, Bateman's position had undergone a complete reversal.

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