

## Confusing concoction of parking regulation signs on Richmond Street near Toronto's Sheraton Hotel has coach drivers baffled as to what's allowed and what isn't

There's nothing like clear, concise signage to help bus drivers comply with Toronto's on-street parking regulations. Any motor coach driver who has dropped or picked up a group or parked their motor coach on Richmond Street West, between Bay St. and University Ave (Sheraton Hotel south entrance) will tell you how befuddling the parking regulation signs are. One look at the picture here and it's no wonder buses fall victim to \$300 parking tickets when they stop, stand or park in this location during certain times of the day. A Bay Street lawyer would be hard-pressed to decipher this hodgepodge of signs, some of which contradict each other. Coach drivers are left wondering which signs trump others and they just want to understand what's allowed so they don't get \$300 tickets.

We're not Bay Street lawyers, but we've taken a stab at interpreting what all these signs mean. One of the problems here is that the large yellow "Motorcoach Loading Area" and "Motorcoach Parking Zone" signs have no regulatory status. Rule of thumb: don't rely on the yellow signs! If a driver just goes by the yellow signs, they'll be in trouble. The *white signs* are the ones that matter. We've asked the city to remove the yellow signs altogether at this location as they only add to the confusion.

The sign mast in the picture is located just east of the Sheraton Hotel south entrance onto Richmond St. It's important to note the rules are different depending on which side of the mast you're on! To the right of the mast (eastward) buses can't stop, stand or park (not even for a quick drop or pick up) during rush hours (Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.). You can *stop* or *stand* a bus in this area but not *park* anytime during the rest



of the day. You can *park* a bus in this area from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. Monday to Friday and anytime (24 hours) over the weekend and public holidays.

Now on to the area to the left of the mast (westward) and next to the hotel's south entrance. Buses can't *stop* (not even for a quick drop or pick up) during the morning rush hour (Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.) but buses can *stop* in this area to drop off or pick up during the afternoon rush hour (3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.). For the remainder of the day or night and weekends, buses cannot *park* in this area, but can stop only to load or unload passengers.