



MAR - 9 2009

Our Ref: 130220

Moyra Baxter
President—Okanagan Branch
BC School Trustees Association
c/o School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)
1940 Underhill St
Kelowna BC V1X 5X7

Dear Ms. Baxter:

Thank you for your letter dated February 11, 2009, regarding transportation funding for school districts.

The Province has supported boards and their students by providing record-high levels of K-12 education funding. In fact, we have the highest education budget in the history of BC. Boards of education are receiving \$4.467 billion in operating grants for this school year—an increase of \$122 million over last year and an increase of \$789 million since 2001.

The Province, in partnership with the Ministry's Technical Review Committee, reviews the education funding formula annually. The Technical Review Committee includes representation from superintendents and secretary-treasurers from both rural and urban school districts.

I am certain you will agree that a board of education is in the best position to make decisions concerning funding priorities throughout its school district. Providing transportation for students is not mandatory for any board. If, due to local priorities, a board chooses to provide transportation for its students, it may also choose to supplement the annual funding received from the Province by charging fees to parents of students using the service.

Thank you, once again, for advising me of the views of school trustees in your region.

Sincerely,

Shirley Bond
Minister
Deputy Premier