



SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 73 (KAMLOOPS/THOMPSON)

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March 2, 2009

Ministry of Education
The Office of the Minister
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

The Honorable Shirley Bond

Dear Minister Bond:

Re: Transportation Funding

At our regular Board Meeting of February 23, 2009, the Board received a copy of a letter forwarded to you by Moyra Baxter, Chair of the Okanagan Branch of the BC School Trustees Association. We wish to add our voices to the call for a review of transportation funding.

The Kamloops/Thompson school system maintains a fleet of 74 buses on 56 scheduled routes in four communities. We have 75 bus drivers on staff and transport approximately 4,000 students each day. Our daily mileage is approximately 9,013 kilometers. This is an expensive yet necessary system. Additionally, we operate 2 sports and special event buses that are necessary to give our students athletic and cultural opportunities that are similar to those in urban districts.

Specifically, we are concerned that no allowance has been given in the global funding allotment to consider inflation in transportation costs. We are concerned that the carbon tax unfairly costs our district when we feel the operation of a fleet ultimately reduces net carbon emissions. We are concerned that the formula does not properly reflect dispersion of school population and schools nor does it reflect or reward compliance with walk limits.

We urge the Ministry to systematically review this issue and report back to districts through the BC School Trustees Association.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Christian", enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

Ken Christian, Chairman
Board of Education

KC:eb

cc: BCSTA Okanagan Branch Boards of Education
Ms. Connie Denesiuk, President, BC School Trustees Association