



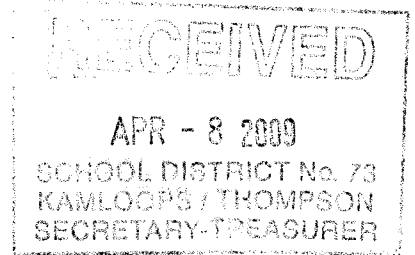
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MAR 31 2009

Our Ref: 130568

Ken Christian, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)
1383 – 9th Ave
Kamloops BC V2C 3X7



Dear Mr. Christian:

Thank you for your letter dated March 2, 2009, in support of a letter sent to me by Moyra Baxter, President, Okanagan Branch of the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA), regarding student transportation funding.

As you know, the Ministry of Education'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. As a result of this committee's deliberations, our current funding formula recognizes the unique challenges that rural and remote school districts face by providing supplements for special needs, salary differential and labour settlements, transportation and diverse geographic factors.

With regard to your comments about transportation funding, fluctuating commodity prices and other factors have made it difficult for some boards to budget their transportation expenses. However, I must reiterate that if a board chooses to provide transportation for its students, it may also choose to supplement the annual funding received from the Province.

Government has provided boards of education with increased flexibility to develop policies that meet local needs. I trust that boards will continue to use that flexibility to best meet the needs of local students and families, particularly during these times of economic uncertainty.

Thank you, once again, for advising me of the views of your Board.

Sincerely,

Shirley Bond
Minister
Deputy Premier