

Written Submission to the Board of Education
Chantelle Cheremkora

Subject: Safety Concern of Maple Ridge Mom

Help my children get to school safely, as it is mandatory for them to attend!

As a young family we are now faced with a very difficult task of how we are going to get our children to school due to the cut backs of school busses in Maple Ridge/ Pitt Meadows.

Safety has got to be the most important issues surrounding the cut back of school busses. We live in a rural area with next to no public transportation available. We have no sidewalks, no street lights and no one obeys the 50km speed limit on our streets. You can also add the daily sightings of bears and cougars in our area, the idea of my young ones walking to school sure sits uneasy in my mind. I think it's ludicrous that you are asking me to risk my children's lives on a daily by telling them they now have to walk to school on our dangerous roads.

Our family works hard for our children. We pay many tax dollars off each pay cheque and yearly on our property taxes to insure our children have successful futures. We should be putting our money toward better improvements to insure our children don't end up on the streets or associated with crime or drugs. Which means we need safe ways for our little ones to get to their mandatory educational centres. My 12 year old daughter has such a strong passion for school, which is something you don't see often in today's children. I don't want to watch that fade away due to unnecessary cut backs but unfortunately she is already starting to feel like the system is failing her.

With the cut backs of school busses our government now may face escalating costs in the welfare system from families that will be out their jobs in order to get their children to the mandatory educational centres. No employer is going to justify a 9am – 2pm work shift but that's now what our family needs in order for our children to attend school. I work for a company I have been with for 8 years, working a 6am – 2:30pm shift, can you tell me how I should make this poor discussion work for our home?

If the government is going to cut our school bus services at least improve our public transportation in the rural area of Whonnock Maple Ridge, B.C. the place we proudly call our home. At least then families may have a chance at life, which should be mandatory for the mandatory education in Canada.

The government of claims to have an exceptional education program in place across Canada but proves to Canadian families every year its many failures with multiple cut backs.

Our children are our future. This country needs them to survive, we need better change to better our children's future and the future of our country.

<https://www.justlanded.com/english/Canada/Canada-Guide/Education/Public-Schools>
http://www.educationau-incanada.ca/educationau-incanada/study-etudes/program_secondary-programme_secondaire.aspx?lang=eng
<http://www.caps-i.ca/education-in-canada/>

To all the concerned families out there feel free to reply all.