

**Written Submission to the Board of Education
Manpreet Grewal**

Subject: School Bus

Dear Sir and Madam,

I recently discovered that the school buses for the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows school district have been cancelled as of the end of June 2016. I live in a rural part of Pitt Meadows, my children rely on the school bus to get to and from school safely, as there is no public transit route services our area. Their schools are over 7 kilometers from home and it is unsafe for them to walk as there is no side walk, minimal lighting, and a very narrow shoulder on the road, although the posted speed limit for vehicles is 50 km/hour this is often not follow or enforced. It is unsafe and unrealistic for my children to walk to school as it is for other children who live in rural parts of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows also.

I understand that there have been funding cuts to the school districts and that the board of trustees have had to make some tough decision, however I feel cutting the school bus services is not viable option . The school bus is used by just over 360 students, these students live in the rural areas of the school district which are not serviced by public transit and are not developed enough to provide a safe walking route for the children . These are the reasons the children take the bus is because there are no other options for them to get to school safely. The majority of the students in the district are fortunate to live close enough to an elementary school and high school to walk or have public transit options. Those of us in the rural areas do not have these options and for this reason have relied on the school bus.

The School Boards Policy #5400 states that the Board of Education believes it is their responsibility to ensure appropriate transportation for eligible students to their catchments area school. We need the school bus to get out kids safely to our catchment school.

As you prepare your budget for the upcoming year, please reconsider the decision to cut school bus services, as children living in rural areas of the school district rely on the school bus to get to and from school safely.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, I look forward to hearing from you soon.