



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

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June 29, 2023

Gary Adams
Regional Executive Director of Education
Chignecto-Central Regional Centre for Educations
60 Lorne Street
Truro, NS B2N 3K3

Re: Bussing Changes for 2023-2024

Further to our discussions, I understand this was a policy created in 2020 that is now being implemented. However, the Policy also states that the Education Center can adjust the number lower, and 1.6 KM is the max for elementary student bussing.

The following are among my many concerns on this:

- Notice the last week of school, giving parents limited time to find solutions.
- Parents who have their children in daycares (home and non-profit) that were bussed, now must find a way to children get to school.
- One daycare contacted me saying after 17 years, they may not be able to continue. I understand this is not necessarily a CCRCE issue, but this decision has major implications.
- Most of the side streets do not have sidewalks in the effected area.
- The changes are now going to pit neighbours against neighbours. I checked and Poplar Drive is 1.35 KM from school, so it appears part of Maple Crescent and the first 8 houses on Poplar Drive will be walking. The bus will drive past these houses and pickup the rest. This makes no sense.
- I am sure other affected subdivisions have the same problem. I requested a list of the houses and roads, but due to privacy concerns, you were unable to supply this.
- Maple Ridge Elementary School students who are now going to be walking will be crossing the roundabout on Highway 2 and the new Lantz Interchange.
- Residents have called the number provided on the letters and are being directed to contact their MLA, which is me. However, these are operational changes, and no MLA has authority to have bus routes changed.
- There are no crossing guards anywhere in East Hants, so there is a huge safety concern.



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- This is not the first time CCRCE has made changes, that in my opinion, do not consider safety. The changes in Tully subdivision in Shubenacadie to Highway 1 is an example.

I have instructed my Constituency Assistant to direct all the emails and questions about this issue to your office, to the attention of your assistance Chantelle.

I believe CCRCE should delay any of these changes until a more robust review of this policy is undertaken.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions or require additional information.

John A MacDonald
MLA Hants East

Cc: Hon Becky Druhan - Minister of Education and Early Childhood
Development of Nova Scotia
Eleanor Roulston – Warden for Municipality of East Hants

Delivered via Email