



July 4, 2023

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The Honourable Becky Druhan  
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The Honourable Brad Johns, MLA  
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**Re: CCRCE 2023-2024 Busing Policy Review**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of East Hants Municipal Council regarding recent letters provided to parents by the CCRCE earlier this month outlining the 2023-2024 Busing Policy Review. East Hants Council was disappointed to receive feedback from parents that concerns continue with the busing policy.

I sent a previous letter on October 23, 2022 to CCRCE regarding the student busing standards and the negative impacts on East Hants parents and students. The concerns remain the same. The expectation that children, in Pre-Primary to Grade 6 living within 1.6 km and children Grades 7 - 12 living within 2.4 km of a school, are to walk to school causes extreme safety concerns.

This policy requires children as young as 4 years old to walk on shoulders of roads where there are no sidewalks or crosswalks with extremely busy traffic. In some areas, there are limited shoulders to even walk on, particularly in winter. These youngsters are expected to know how to navigate extremely high traffic areas which are simply unsafe, such as the traffic circle in Lantz and crossing Hwy #2 throughout the communities of Enfield, Elmsdale and Lantz where, per Provincial policy, there are no crosswalks permitted.

Parents have limited options for before and after school care for their children. Lack of busing will further compound the difficulty in finding before and after school care, which may also negatively impact pre-primary enrollment. Full-time working parents are not able to easily drive their children to and from school. The stress and worry of wondering if their children made it to or from school alone that day is unacceptable.

Waiting until the end of August for parents to apply for an unassigned seat offers no reassurance. It adds further unnecessary stress.

Understandably, the lack of bus drivers is an issue, but putting children at risk is not the answer.

While we understand, this policy is considered operational and we have no direct decision-making powers in this matter, East Hants Council has a responsibility to the residents of this municipality and invites you to participate in a joint meeting to further discuss this policy and plans for improvements.

Please contact Sheralee MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk at [smacewan@easthants.ca](mailto:smacewan@easthants.ca) or by phone at 902-883-6217 to offer date/time options you are available for coordination.

I look forward to a timely meeting in the coming weeks before the next school year.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eleanor Roulston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.

Eleanor Roulston

Warden