



House of Assembly  
Nova Scotia

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July 7, 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 – from response

Thank you for your response to my letter dated June 28, 2023. It speaks to the issues I have with the implementation of the changes. CCRCE started in Spring of 2023, which means they had months to look at it. It gave the parents the summer to figure the changes out. Some may be able to get their children on for bussing, if there is room end of August.

The 2020 policy has many issues that need to be looked at. The policy was released in June of 2020, but does not state when it was drafted but appears to be based on feedback from 2018. It appears the group did not reach out to Public Works for their input.

The following are some of my additional issues.

- 5.1 does not allow required any CE to look at special consideration.
- 5.1.3 clearly states the CE can allow bussing for less than 5.1.1 (1.6 km) and 5.1.2 (2.4 km). CCREC has decided to remove the bussing.
- 5.8 falls into the same category where no reasonable notice is given.
- 5.11.1, I raised this point with your department and the Minister where the second part (of the three requirements) where road is maintained by Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (Public works now), Public Works has not created new Subdivision roads since the 1990's. These are maintained by Municipalities not the province, which causes CE staff to say these roads do not qualify. Good example is the 3 months I had to argue about the 8 km road in Mt Uniacke. Also, Public Works does maintain J Class roads, but it is not clear in your policy if a J class road is permitted.
- 5.11.2 states at least 15 calendar days' notice will be given when a side road is removed.
- The policy lacks any requirement for advance notice, can you imagine if the government told all of the CE, they have 15 days to have bussing for every student, would not happen. However, parents have 15 days to find alternative when CE makes a change.



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I know that staff are telling resident they are following a government policy and they should reach out to the government. They also say that issues with the absence of sidewalks and cross walks should be directed to their Municipality. As each CE, per policy 5.1.3, can allow bussing for distance less than policy, your CE decided to make the change to remove the courtesy bussing. I have already been contacted by some staff at Municipality of East Hants as they are getting calls.

My view is the Policy needs to be changed immediately, as the issue with 5.11.1 was raised by me over a year ago and nothing was done. I still believe CCRCE should delay any of these changes until a more robust review of this policy is undertaken. I believe the policy needs to change to take into account the absence of sidewalks and cross walks with the distance. In my opinion, a decision to remove bussing should be given to the parents one year in advance, so they have time to lobby or find replacement daycare.

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

John A MacDonald  
MLA Hants East

Link for [Transportation Policy](#)

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