

From: [Chantelle Desrosiers](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] [Board of Education](#)
Subject: Re: Discrimination in School Transportation Service
Date: Monday, January 20, 2025 9:32:29 PM

Good evening [REDACTED]

Thank you for sharing your concerns and forwarding your communication with the local MLA. I understand your frustration regarding the challenges of securing transportation for your child.

I would like to clarify some key points you raised. The school district's transportation policies are structured around local English catchment schools. Unfortunately, transportation on yellow school buses is not provided for schools or programs of choice unless they are located at the student's designated English catchment school. As French Immersion is considered a program of choice in British Columbia, and [REDACTED] is not your local English catchment school based on your address, bus routes are not provided to this location.

Transportation remains a significant challenge for the district. While the provincial government provides \$600,000 annually for transportation, the district's actual transportation costs last year totaled approximately \$6.5 million. After factoring in provincial funding and fees collected, the district covered the remaining \$4.3 million from its operating funds, funds that would otherwise be allocated to classrooms and other critical resources. This ongoing financial strain makes transportation a topic of continued discussion and debate within the district.

To ensure your perspective is part of this conversation, I have copied the Board of Education on this email, along with your original correspondence. Your input is valuable as we work towards finding equitable solutions for transportation challenges across the district.

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns. Please do not hesitate to email or call me if you have further questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,
Chantelle Desrosiers
Trustee, Central Okanagan Board of Education
(250)718-6303

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2025 6:07 PM
To: Chantelle Desrosiers <Chantelle.Desrosiers@sd23.bc.ca>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Discrimination in School Transportation Service

WARNING: This email originated from outside Central Okanagan Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Chantelle.

Hope this email finds you well. We were told to share our frustrations with significant unfairness and discrimination towards kids attending french immersion schools which is a public school offered as a choice to all kids at the time they start schooling, without any warnings that they would not have access to the same resources other kids have in some municipalities. Below was the msg sent to the MLA for this area and they referred us to you:

Our names are [REDACTED], we are parents of [REDACTED] who just started attending [REDACTED] school as this was the closest French immersion school to our house on [REDACTED] in West Kelowna. We just relocated here from the Lower Mainland where we lived for past 15 years with our daughter [REDACTED], and 14 year old son [REDACTED]. With the cost of living increase and life getting busier by day, we made the difficult decision to leave our family and friends behind and relocate. While preparing for the move and our new life here, we applied for school bus transportation for both our kids and were shocked to find out after our move that our 14 year old son was approved for school bus but our 10- year old daughter was not only because she is going to french immersion school. If she had chosen all english school, she would have been approved. This does not make any sense to us as our daughter has gone to french immersion all her schooling life and we feel she is now being discriminated against because of it. Our daughter cannot go to and from school by herself, and we both work full time and cannot leave work in the middle of the day to pick her up from school. We are looking to get some help and resolution to this matter as we feel our daughter is being punished for going to French immersion school, which is a public french immersion school in our catchment and kids should not have to suffer for learning to speak two official languages in Canada. Thank you in advance for your understanding and help.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]