

January 24, 2006

The Honourable Gerard Kennedy
Minister of Education
Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Kennedy:

Once again, I wish to draw to your attention the concerns of the Peel District School Board with respect to the continuing inequities within the funding formula for student transportation. This is a long-standing problem, which remains unresolved and requires resolution.

The Peel District School Board is currently projecting a \$9 million deficit for student transportation services in 2005-2006. In total, since the establishment of this funding formula in 1998, Peel's transportation expenditure will have exceeded Ministry funding by approximately \$39 million at the conclusion of the current school year.

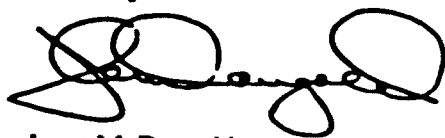
This accumulated deficit has occurred despite operating an integrated transportation system for the past twelve years with our coterminous partner, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, despite the use of route optimization software and substantial staggering of school start and end times to enhance efficiency, and despite a fleet-wide (72 passenger) average of five runs per bus per day.

Peel Board's concerns regarding the student transportation funding formula have been well documented and we have patiently cooperated with the Ministry to try to resolve this funding inadequacy.

We are prepared to continue to work with the Ministry of Education to resolve this matter, but there is some urgency to resolving this issue in this year. The concept of an operational review, to certify the efficiency of our transportation operations leading to an appropriate adjustment to our funding, is supported by the Peel District School Board. I would urge you to proceed with this review immediately, so that any operational and funding recommendations will impact our 2006/07 budget and our 2005/06 financial results. If nothing changes, the Peel District School Board will incur a 2005/06 deficit of \$9 million.

On behalf of the Board, I am requesting an opportunity to meet with you as soon as possible to discuss this matter more fully.

Sincerely,



Janet McDougald
Chair

c. Peel MPPs

Peter Ferreira, Chair, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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