

From: Minister of Transport / Ministre des Transports (TC) [<mailto:TC.MinisterofTransport-MinistredesTransports.TC@tc.gc.ca>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 6:07 AM

To: Laura Schumi <LSchumi@csrd.bc.ca>

Cc: 'Mel.Arnold@parl.gc.ca' <Mel.Arnold@parl.gc.ca>; 'minister.transportation@gov.bc.ca' <minister.transportation@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Regarding Greyhound's service cuts in western Canada and northern Ontario

Ms. Rhona Martin
Chair, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
c/o Ms. Laura Schumi
Administrative Clerk
LSchumi@csrd.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Martin:

I am responding to your correspondence regarding Greyhound's service cuts in western Canada and northern Ontario. Please accept my apology for the delay in replying.

As Minister of Transport, my overarching goal is to ensure that Canada's transportation system supports our ambitious economic growth and job creation agenda. Canadians require a transportation system that is safe, reliable and environmentally responsible.

The federal government recognizes the seriousness of Greyhound's service discontinuance in western Canada and northern Ontario. Intercity bus service is an important means of transportation for many Canadians, especially for connecting rural, remote, and Indigenous communities with urban areas.

In response to Greyhound's service cuts, on October 31, 2018, I announced the federal government's willingness to support provinces in addressing the service discontinuance. The plan includes a commitment to cost-share provincial initiatives to fill service gaps on a temporary and transitional basis. In addition, I announced that a federal-provincial-territorial working group will continue to explore long-term, innovative solutions to meet the mobility needs of Canadians.

Regarding the Government of Canada's commitment to a cost-sharing partnership, the federal government has allocated \$10 million, which can be transferred to provinces that put forward proposals to offer funding to a private provider to deliver service in specific areas where Greyhound removed its service last year. It is not typically the role of the federal government to fund the intercity bus industry in this fashion. Under normal circumstances, this decision would lie with the provinces. However, given both the scope and abruptness of Greyhound's service reductions, this funding will alleviate the most immediate impacts as provinces lead the transition to a more stable solution. The implementation and oversight to ensure cost-effectiveness and accountability of these services is the responsibility of the provinces.

I hope that the foregoing has helped to address your concerns. Thank you again for writing on this important topic.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport

c.c. Mr. Mel Arnold, M.P.
The Honourable Claire Trevena, M.L.A.