

Ministry of Education

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SEP 25 2018

John Jevnikar, Chair
London District Catholic School Board
5200 Wellington Road South
London ON N6E3X8

Matthew Reid, Chair
Thames Valley District School Board
1250 Dundas Street
London ON N5W5P2

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIR

Dear Mr. Jevnikar and Mr. Reid,

Thank you for your letter about student transportation, as well as the letters from your school boards sent to Assistant Deputy Minister Joshua Paul. I am pleased to respond.

I recognize the importance of student transportation services and that students should arrive at school safe and ready to learn. That is why I am encouraged to hear that an agreement has been reached with the school bus operators and that transportation service will be up and running for the first day of this school year. I would also like to acknowledge the significant efforts that you have invested in resolving the situation.

I understand the boards' concern for their financial situation and it is school boards' responsibility to make budgeting decisions based on their priorities. Having said that, I am open to continue discussions with the boards on how government funding for student transportation can be improved in the future to meet needs of students and their families.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lisa Thompson".

The Honourable Lisa Thompson
Minister of Education

c.c. Laura Elliot, Director of Education, Thames Valley District School Board
Linda Staudt, Director of Education, London District Catholic School Board