



**Northern Lights**

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*Working Together to Help Every Student Learn and Excel*

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December 2, 2024

sent via email: [transportation.minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:transportation.minister@gov.ab.ca)

The Honourable Devin Dreeshen  
Minister of Transportation & Economic Corridors  
127 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

**Re: Highway 663, Lac La Biche County**

Dear Minister Dreeshen,

On behalf of the Northern Lights Public Schools Board of Trustees, I am writing to express our strong support for Lac La Biche County's request to improve Highway 663. The safety of our students and staff who rely on this highway daily is a top priority.

We share the County's concerns about the dangerous condition of this vital transportation route. The rough road surface is creating uncomfortable and unsafe conditions for our students, and our bus contractors have reported that school buses sustain damages due to the poor conditions of the highway. With the current shortage of replacement parts and replacement buses, this creates the potential for the division to be unable to transport students to and from school if a bus is deemed inoperable.

The lack of sufficient maintenance poses a serious safety risk. We have captured video footage of a school bus forced to slow down to a mere 19 km/h due to the severity of the potholes and uneven pavement. This slow highway travel not only disrupts our students' education but also increases the risk of collisions, especially during winter weather.

While we appreciate the efforts of local maintenance crews, the current level of upkeep is insufficient. With winter weather upon us, we urge the Provincial Government to prioritize the repair and maintenance of Highway 663. The safety of our students, staff, and all who rely on this highway is paramount. We request that immediate action be taken to address this critical issue.

By investing in the repair and maintenance of Highway 663, the Provincial Government can ensure the safety and well-being of our community. We look forward to working with you to find a solution.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen R.', written in a cursive style.

Karen Packard  
Board Chair

cc: Minister Brian Jean  
Lac La Biche County Council  
Manny Deol, Chief Administrative Officer  
Chairman Stanley Delorme, Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement