



ALBERTA
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Office of the Minister

July 20, 2004

Mr. Paul Siller
Transportation Manager
Rocky View Regional Handibus Society
PO Box 3235
Airdrie, Alberta
T4B 2B5

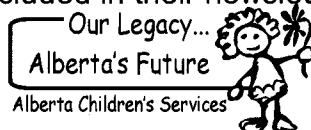
Dear Mr. Siller:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding funding for specialized transportation services.

Within the Ministry of Children's Services, the Resources for Children with Disabilities (RCD) Program provides transportation supports when the disability of a child results in higher than normal transportation costs for the family. Each Child and Family Services Authority (CFSA) in the province is responsible for delivering services within their community. To inquire about assistance with transportation costs for children with special needs, please contact Konrad Dytnerki, Executive Manager with the Calgary and Area CFSA, at (403) 297-2090.

I believe we need to work together to ensure the necessary resources are in place to support the transportation needs of children and adults with disabilities in our communities. To that end, the Ministry of Children's Services is convening a meeting of respective Assistant Deputy Ministers to clarify mandates and responsibilities, and to consider ways of working together to resolve transportation funding issues. Among those invited are the Assistant Deputy Ministers from Transportation, Municipal Affairs, Seniors, Community Development, and Health and Wellness.

The Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Program Advisory Team (PAT), includes representatives from the Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta (FCSSAA) and Children's Services. PAT members continue to discuss transportation concerns and review the role of FCSS funding within the requirements of the *Family and Community Support Services Act* and Regulation. Regular updates are provided to the FCSSAA with respect to transportation correspondence received by this Ministry. This information is occasionally included in their newsletter, which is distributed throughout the province.



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A number of interesting documents are available on the Transportation website at www.trans.gov.ab.ca, including information regarding the Alberta Advisory Committee on Barrier Free Transportation. The objective of this committee is "to have barrier free transportation systems within the province which meets transportation needs for local and intra-provincial travel, as well as barrier free pedestrian environments within municipalities." Through their Advisory Committee, Transportation is working in partnership with key stakeholders to promote barrier free transportation initiatives.

I am hopeful that the planned meeting of Assistant Deputy Ministers will result in positive outcomes for Alberta's children, families, and communities requiring transportation services. Once again, thank you for taking the time to share your concerns.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iris', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Iris Evans
Minister

cc: Honourable Ed Stelmach
Minister, Transportation

Honourable Guy Boutilier
Minister, Municipal Affairs