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ALBERTA  
MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION

*MLA Vegreville - Viking*

AUG 11 2003

Mr. Paul Siller  
Interim Chairman  
Rural/Urban Transportation Issues (RUTI Group)  
c/o Rocky View Regional Handibus Society  
P.O. Box 3235  
Airdrie AB T4B 2B5

Dear Mr.  Siller:

Thank you for your July 15, 2003 letter regarding concerns related to urban and rural accessible transportation.

Several communities and interested stakeholders have also advised my colleagues and I that urban and rural accessible transportation is a concern. The Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities identified the need to address the lack of accessible transportation in rural communities as a key recommendation in the *Alberta Disability Strategy* released in December 2002.

At the recent June 2003 meeting with the Alberta Advisory Committee on Barrier-Free Transportation, it was suggested that a closer examination of the issue concerning accessible transportation for persons with disabilities between urban and rural communities be conducted. As you are aware, this Advisory Committee is comprised of consumer stakeholders and service providers that address transportation-related accessibility issues.

Specifically, the Advisory Committee has suggested it work towards defining the urban and rural accessible transportation problem; clarifying what the causes are that have created the current situation; and identifying possible solutions. These items are consistent with those that you included in your letter. The objective would be to reach consensus on concerns and solutions about accessible transportation between rural and urban communities and to discuss these with affected government departments.

The Advisory Committee has also suggested that this work in the urban and rural accessible transportation area be integrated as part of the overall government strategy in addressing the recommendations identified in the *Alberta Disability Strategy*.

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As Chair of the Advisory Committee, Alberta Transportation will be facilitating the process by preparing a discussion paper summarizing input from the Advisory Committee. This paper will become the consensus document that will then be shared with my colleagues from other affected government departments. If you wish to provide input to the discussion paper on behalf of the RUTI Group, I encourage you to contact Mr. JD Kliewer, Policy Advisor (Intern), at phone: (780) 422-3801 or e-mail: [james.kliewer@gov.ab.ca](mailto:james.kliewer@gov.ab.ca).

In the meantime, some of my colleagues may wish to take this opportunity to advise you of their departmental initiatives with respect to urban and rural accessible transportation.

Thank you again for writing and sharing your concerns on this important community issue.

Yours truly,



Ed Stelmach  
Minister

cc: Hon. Gary Mar  
Minister of Health and Wellness

Hon. Stan Woloshyn  
Minister of Seniors

Hon. Clint Dunford  
Minister of Human Resources and Employment

Hon. Lyle Oberg  
Minister of Learning

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Ms. Carol Haley, MLA  
Airdrie-Rocky View Constituency