

Excerpts from reports on Global News (July 9, 2018)

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4320944/greyhound-bus-service-western-canada-ending/>

Greyhound Canada to end routes in Prairies, B.C.

By Janice Dickson The Canadian Press

[Greyhound](#) Canada says it is ending its passenger bus and freight services in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and cancelling all but one route in B.C. – a U.S.-run service between Vancouver and Seattle.

As a result, when the changes take effect at the end of October, Ontario and Quebec will be the only regions where the familiar running-dog logo continues to grace Canadian highways.

“This decision is regretful and we sympathize with the fact that many small towns are going to lose service,” Greyhound Canada senior vice-president Stuart Kendrick said in an interview with The Canadian Press.

“But simply put, the issue that we have seen is the routes in rural parts of Canada – specifically Western Canada – are just not sustainable anymore.”

Kendrick said 415 people will be out of work as a result of the decision, which he estimates will impact roughly two million consumers.

The company is blaming a 41 per cent decline in ridership since 2010, persistent competition from subsidized national and inter-regional passenger transportation services, the growth of new low-cost airlines, regulatory constraints and the continued growth of car ownership.

Declining ridership is the primary culprit, said Kendrick, who called the combination of declining ridership and increasing costs an “ongoing spiral” that’s making it impossible for the company to continue operations.

He said the company has raised its concerns with provincial and federal officials over the years and wanted to ensure both levels of government were “fully aware” of the situation. Greyhound Canada has long advocated for a community funding model to allow any private carrier to bid on essential rural services, he added.

Kendrick said Greyhound Canada will continue to push Ottawa to look at improving transport in northern communities.

“There was a commitment to look at our issue, they’re well aware of it. It shouldn’t come as a surprise that we’ve had problems but there was no funding commitment at that time,” he said.

“The company has experienced significant losses despite continued efforts to return to viability. In the affected regions, the company has run an operating deficit since 2004. We have had substantial losses over several years as a direct result of declining ridership.”

All Greyhound routes in Ontario and Quebec will continue to operate except for one: the Trans-Canada, which links a number of smaller communities between Winnipeg and Sudbury, Ont.

Kendrick said the decision will leave most of the affected communities with no other transportation options.

Greyhound Canada applied to provincial regulators last year to discontinue routes in northern B.C. from Prince George to Prince Rupert because of declining ridership. Those cancellations went into effect June 1.

The issue of adequate transportation came up repeatedly during the ongoing inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, since one of the affected routes included the notorious stretch of Highway 16 in B.C. known as the Highway of Tears, where a number of women have gone missing.

The cancellations are scheduled to take effect Oct. 31.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4322146/greyhound-western-canada-alternatives/>

What are the alternatives to Greyhound in Western Canada?

By [Rebecca Joseph](#) National Online Journalist, Breaking News Global News

The news that [Greyhound](#) Canada buses won't be travelling to cities and communities west of Sudbury, Ont. as of Oct. 31 has left many travellers in a bind.

“I take the bus every weekend ‘cause I’m from Fort Mac and I just come [to Edmonton] every weekend and hang out with my friends,” Seth Grandjambe told Global News. “(The lack of Greyhound service will leave) me being stuck up there every weekend.”

Indigenous people from northern Manitoba rely on the bus service for travel to medical appointments.

“It is already well documented that our citizens have to ride the bus for hours, some longer than 14 hours, in order to see a doctor. How will they get access to adequate health care now?” Grand Chief Arlen Dumas of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs said.

Greyhound officials blamed the change on declining ridership.

“This decision is regretful and we sympathize with the fact that many small towns are going to lose service,” said Greyhound Canada senior vice-president Stuart Kendrick.

“But simply put, the issue that we have seen is the routes in rural parts of Canada, specifically Western Canada, are just not sustainable anymore.”

So what are the available options to those without a car in these communities after Oct. 31?

British Columbia:

When this happened to the northern British Columbia routes earlier this year, the Province of B.C. stepped in to help connect communities like Fort Nelson, Prince Rupert and Dawson Creek with its [BC Bus North](#) service.

B.C. Transportation Minister Claire Trevena called Greyhound’s move hugely problematic for people who depend on the service in the province’s Interior and to go to and from Alberta.

“In the weeks and months ahead, I will be sitting down with other service providers, the private sector and local government to discuss how we can ensure people have access to safe, reliable and affordable transportation to get from one community to the next,” she said.

In Kelowna, Mayor Colin Basran said it may be time to look at a homegrown bus service.

“Perhaps we need to have discussions with the provincial government and BC Transit about at least a regional service so that people throughout the Okanagan Valley can still connect to the destinations they need to,” Basran said.

Here are some alternatives that B.C. travellers can consider to Greyhound services:

- Route cancelled: Calgary – Kelowna – Kamloops – Vancouver

The Kamloops –Vancouver option is available from Via Rail, but Kelowna and Calgary aren’t. They are available by flight.

- Route cancelled: Vancouver – Whistler – Pemberton

You can travel to Whistler on Pacific Coach Lines from Vancouver for as little as \$20, but you can’t go all the way to Pemberton.

- Route cancelled: Prince George – Kamloops

This route is available by train or by airplane.

- Route cancelled: Osoyoos – Penticton – Kelowna – Kamloops

The nearest airport for Osoyoos is Penticton. Airplanes service the route from Penticton, Kelowna and Kamloops. No train that services this route.

Alberta:

Alberta's transportation minister called on Ottawa to come up with a way to fill the bus service gap that Greyhound's departure will leave.

"Given the developments today, we need the federal government to step up and come up with a national solution that keeps Canadians connected across the country," Brian Mason said in an emailed statement.

"Greyhound's decision to discontinue service in the Prairies is an issue of national importance."

Late Monday afternoon, Transport Canada issued a statement in which it said "there are no federal government funding programs that would provide an operational subsidy for private intercity bus carriers," and suggested a response was perhaps more incumbent on the provinces as opposed to Ottawa.

According to Transport Canada, individual jurisdictions are free to subsidize particular routes or carriers if they so wish, adding that since Greyhound began cutting services to various markets in 2009, many service gaps have been "filled by other bus companies, and by other modes."

Other than the regular train and airplane service, Alberta also has [Red Arrow](#) transportation, which is an intercity bus service that only operates in that province.

- Route cancelled: Dawson Creek – Edmonton

This route is serviced by plane, but not by train.

- Route cancelled: Calgary – Edmonton

This route is serviced by Red Arrow buses and by plane; it is not serviced by train.

- Route cancelled: Calgary – Lethbridge

This route is serviced by Red Arrow buses and by plane; it is not serviced by train.

- Route cancelled: Edmonton – Fort McMurray

This route is serviced by Red Arrow buses and by plane; it is not serviced by train.

- Route cancelled: Calgary – Kelowna

This route is serviced by Red Arrow buses and by plane; it is not serviced by train.

- Route cancelled: Saskatoon – Edmonton

This route is available on Via Rail, and by plane.

- Route cancelled: Edmonton – Vancouver

This route is available on Via Rail, and by plane.

Saskatchewan

The provincial government shut down the provincially-run Saskatchewan Transportation Company in a bid to cut the deficit.

Premier Scott Moe's spokesman Jim Billington said bringing it back doesn't make sense and would require over \$80 million in subsidies over the next five years.

- Route cancelled: Winnipeg – Saskatoon

This route is available on Via Rail, and by plane.

- Route cancelled: Saskatoon – Edmonton

This route is available on Via Rail, and by plane.

Manitoba

Manitoba Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler said the announcement caught him by surprise, but he is hoping other companies can come forward with business plans.

While there are certain northern routes that aren't serviced by major airlines like Air Canada or WestJet, smaller airlines like Calm Air and Perimeter Aviation will service the less-travelled routes.

- Route cancelled: Sault Ste Marie – Thunder Bay – Winnipeg – Manitoba

This route is serviced by airplane.

- Route cancelled: Calgary – Winnipeg

This route is serviced by airplane.

- Route cancelled: Winnipeg – Thunder Bay

This route is serviced by airplane.

- Route cancelled: Winnipeg – Saskatoon

This route is serviced by train and by airplane.

- Route cancelled: Winnipeg – Thompson

This route is serviced by train and by airplane (Calm Air).

- Route cancelled: Winnipeg – Flin Flon

This route is available by airplane (Calm Air).

- Route cancelled: Thompson – Gillam

This route is available by train.

- Route cancelled: Thompson – Cross Lake

This route is available by airplane (Perimeter Aviation).

Northern Ontario:

All Greyhound routes in Ontario and Quebec will continue to operate except for one: the Trans-Canada, which links a number of smaller communities between Winnipeg and Sudbury, Ont...*(Follow link above for full report)*