



Cariboo Regional District  
File No. 400-20

APR 12 2019

Referred To Chair  
Board

APR 10 2019

Margo Wagner, Chair  
Cariboo Regional District  
180 N Third Avenue, Suite D  
Williams Lake BC V2G 2A4

Reference: 283430  
Your File: 400-20

Dear Chair Wagner,

**Re: Bus Service to the Cariboo Chilcotin**

Thank you for your letter regarding passenger transportation to the Cariboo Chilcotin. I am sorry it has taken me so long to reply.

We know there is still work left to do to ensure people in rural and remote communities can travel by bus safely, affordably and reliably. As you mention, a private operator, Merritt Shuttle Bus, applied for and was approved to provide service on Highway 97 through the Cariboo. I understand the company experienced start-up challenges with its efforts to launch a privately operated inter-city bus service, and that the Passenger Transportation (PT) Board's approval of the service expired when the company did not start prior to the PT Board's latest deadline. I also understand that the PT Board recently approved an application for two new inter-city bus routes to Cariboo communities that have been without service since Greyhound exited. More information about these routes is available on the PT Board's website at <https://www.ptboard.bc.ca/bus.htm>.

Private bus operators are currently providing service on most of Greyhound's former routes in B.C., and the ministry issued a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) to engage the private sector on solutions to fill the remaining gaps in service. The RFEI has now closed, and we are determining the next steps. At the same time, the ministry continues to participate in an interprovincial working group with the federal government and other provinces and territories to address the impact of discontinued inter-city bus services. I am committed to continuing to work in close partnership with local communities, the private sector and the federal government to develop solutions.

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You may be aware that Northern Health Connections has expanded eligibility for its bus service so that seniors and people with mobility challenges who do not have medical appointments can now ride the Northern Health Connections bus. More information is available on the Northern Health Connections website at [nhconnections.ca](http://nhconnections.ca) or by telephone at 1 888 647-4997, on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

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

Claire Trevena  
Minister

File: 400-20



January 21, 2019

VIA EMAIL: [Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Claire Trevena  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

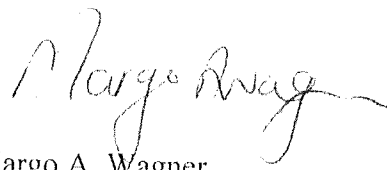
Dear Minister Trevena:

Re: Support for Proposed Bus Service to the Cariboo Chilcotin

Please see attached, correspondence to the Passenger Transportation Board regarding the licensing process for passenger bus transportation services to the Cariboo Chilcotin.

I request that your Ministry work with the Passenger Transportation Board to open the bidding process for the provision of passenger bus services to the Cariboo Chilcotin, and I sincerely hope that this this important service can be restored as soon as possible.

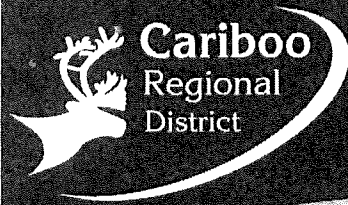
Yours truly,



Margo A. Wagner  
Chair

c: Donna Barnett, MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin  
Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North  
TNRD Chair Kenneth Gillis

Attachment: Correspondence to Passenger Transportation Board



## OFFICE OF THE CHAIR

Suite D, 180 N Third Avenue, Williams Lake, BC V2G 2A4

Tel: 250-392-3351 TF: 1-800-665-1636

Fax: 250-392-2812

File: 400-20

January 21, 2019

Passenger Transportation Board  
Box 202-940 Blanchard Street  
Victoria BC V8V 9T5

**COPY**

Dear Board Members:

Re: Support for Proposed Bus Service to the Cariboo Chilcotin

I am writing to support MLA Donna Barnett's attached request for the Passenger Transportation Board to open the bidding process for a passenger bus service to the Cariboo Chilcotin.

The Cariboo Regional District Board members fully realize the importance of this service to the residents of our area, and I have recently written letters to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure in support of Merrit Shuttle Bus Service's attempts to obtain funding so that they can purchase the vehicles required. However, as the company has not yet been successful in obtaining the funding they are seeking, I feel that other companies should be given the opportunity to fill the gap left by the elimination of Greyhound bus services.

Thank you for considering this request. I sincerely hope that this important service can be restored as soon as possible.

Yours truly,

Margo A. Wagner  
Chair

c: Honourable Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Donna Barnett, MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin  
Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North  
TNRD Chair Kenneth Gillis

Attachment: Correspondence from MLA Donna Barnett

building communities together



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Donna Barnett MLA  
Cariboo--Chilcotin

Honorable Claire Trevena  
Minister of Transportation  
Victoria, BC

January 9, 2019

Dear Minister Trevena,

Attached kindly find correspondence to the Passenger Transportation Board regarding the licensing for passenger transportation service in the Cariboo Chilcotin.

Residents are stranded.

I request the Ministry have the Passenger Transportation Board which is under your authority to immediately open the process for a license in this region for secure and safe passenger transportation.

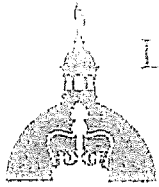
Yours truly,

Donna Barnett, MLA Cariboo Chilcotin

CC Cariboo Regional District Chair, Margo Wagner  
Mayor District of 100 Mile House  
Mayor City of Williams Lake  
MLA Jordan Sturdy, Transportation Critic Official Opposition

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BC Liberal Official Opposition  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Donna Barnett MLA  
Cariboo--Chilcotin

Passenger Transportation Board  
Box 202-940 Blanchard St.  
Victoria, BC  
V8V 9T5

January 9, 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of my constituents in the Cariboo Chilcotin I am requesting the Passenger Transportation Board open the bidding process for a passenger service in the Cariboo Chilcotin. Since the closure of Greyhound there is absolutely no public offered transportation for residents to Vancouver, Kamloops, and Southern Communities nor to the North.

Many residents of the Cariboo Chilcotin have Doctors' appointments out of the area, now with no means other than the Northern Health Bus which does a great service but is not accessible to all. The region has been stranded. It is my understanding a company from Merritt had been given a license but have no vehicles to provide the service. I heard on media this morning they now have been given an extension as they still cannot deliver a service as they have not obtained funding.

I find it hard to believe a license could be given to a company to provide a service without the equipment to do so.

Yours truly,

Donna Barnett, MLA Cariboo Chilcotin

CC Minister of Transportation, Claire Trevena  
Mayor Walt Cobb, City of Williams Lake  
Mayor Mitch Campsall, District of 100 Mile House  
Cariboo Regional District Chair, Margo Wagner  
Jordan Sturdy, Transportation Critic for the Official Opposition

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