Dear parents,

At the December Division School Council meeting, the recent decision of Lethbridge city council to discontinue the school bus partnership with Lethbridge School Division and Holy Spirit Catholic School Division was discussed. A very short timeline for transition of bus services will likely result in the two school divisions having no alternative but to secure a for-profit provider. The outcome of securing services from for-profit providers in school jurisdictions across the province is one of three things: transportation fees for parents, a deficit in transportation supported by dollars that are otherwise directed at classrooms, or significant changes in service levels.

The parents at Division School Council agreed that parents may want to express their concerns to city councilors, and some parents may find a letter template helpful.

This template is intended to serve as a starting point. Please feel free to copy, adjust, add personal details to suit your own perspectives on this matter.

The email addresses for the City of Lethbridge Council are:

mayor@lethbridge.ca;   council@lethbridge.ca; Chris.Spearman@lethbridge.ca; Mark.Campbell@lethbridge.ca; Jeff.Carlson@lethbridge.ca; Jeff.Coffman@lethbridge.ca; Belinda.Crowson@lethbridge.ca; Blaine.Hyggen@lethbridge.ca; Joe.Mauro@lethbridge.ca; Rob.Miyashiro@lethbridge.ca; Ryan.Parker@lethbridge.ca

Some additional resources for you regarding this issue:

1. Division hoping for more communication: <https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/our-district/news/post/division-hoping-for-more-communication-with-city-on-school-bus-transportation-agreement>
2. School bus questions and answers: <https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/our-district/news/post/have-questions-about-the-school-bus-transportation-issue-we-have-answers>
3. School bus media release: <https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/our-district/news/post/divisions-concerned-about-city-resolution-to-transfer-school-bus-operations-to-school-boards>

Thank you in advance for your assistance and support of our school jurisdictions and community. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

**Garrett Simmons, Communications Officer**Lethbridge School Division     Mobile: 403-634-4529  Phone: 403-327-9555     Find us on Twitter @LethSchDivision and Facebook @LSD51

First Name, Last Name

Street Address

Lethbridge, Alberta TXX XXX

Yourmail@mail.com

December 18, 2019

Mayor and Council, City of Lethbridge

2nd Floor, City Hall, 910 – 4th Avenue South

Lethbridge, AB T1J 0P6

Dear Mayor Spearman and Lethbridge City Council,

I am writing today to express my perspective regarding city council’s decision to discontinue a partnership with Lethbridge School Division and Holy Spirit Catholic School Division for school bussing services.

A lengthy tradition of providing services to families and children in Lethbridge is a source of pride for Lethbridge. As a parent, I feel these are services that make this community healthy and strong. I recognize that a large part of these initiative being offered are the result of varying partnerships in our community. I have always been very impressed with the City of Lethbridge’s leadership in making these projects a reality.

There are some negative outcomes is the school divisions are put in the position of having to secure a for-profit school bus provider. It is my understanding that either transportation fees will need to be charged by the school jurisdictions or funds will need to be taken from the classroom.

As you know, these are difficult economic times. Extra charges may be absorbed by some, but we know there are many in our community who can barely afford the current costs required to meet their children’s basic needs, let alone transport them to school.

I respectfully request that you reopen conversation with the school jurisdictions to discuss a solution that better suits your needs, and the needs of your combined community members.

Sincerely,

XXX