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## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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Chilliwack School District

### MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO ELIMINATE BUS FEES FOR PARENTS

The Chilliwack Board of Education is pleased that the Ministry of Education has recognized the burden on parents in paying school bus fees or having their school transportation eliminated by financially stressed School Boards. The equality of access to education is critical and has historically been addressed by the yellow school bus. The Ministry is now paying the fees for eligible riders with new and continuing funding.

The Chilliwack Board of Education met today to work out the details of the plan to present to the Ministry to access the funds which will then allow the Board to cancel fees for eligible riders.

The Board approved, in accordance with Policy 710 Transportation and its Administrative Regulations, effective for the 2016/17 school year, the elimination of fees for regular bus riders and the reduction of fees for courtesy bus riders from \$350 to \$250 per year. The Board also approved the additional funds remaining to support schools with the cost of curricular and extra-curricular trips, many of which were also funded by parents.

Board Chair Silvia Dyck noted, "the Board made a difficult decision in light of its educational budget challenges to implement bus fees so this is great news for our Board and for many of our parents. Bussing is important for some of our students and we are pleased to be able to eliminate fees for our in-catchment students and reduce fees for our courtesy riders. We appreciate the government's support in reducing the financial burden for parents."

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