



March 8, 2016

Betty Baxter, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 46
PO Box 220
494 South Fletcher
Gibsons BC V0N 1V0

Reference: 251429

Dear Chair Baxter:

Re: Failing to Stop for a School Bus

Thank you for your letter requesting an increase in the penalty for failing to stop for a school bus. The safety of all road users is the ministry's highest priority, and I appreciate your concerns for the safety of children during the loading and unloading of school buses at the roadside. Please accept my apologies for the lateness of this reply.

Like the ministry, the police take this matter very seriously. Local police welcome suggestions from the public about where to target their enforcement efforts, so you may wish to notify them of any locations in your area where this issue has been identified. To support localized enforcement efforts and promote public awareness, the ministry's district office or the local municipality can be contacted and requested to install roadside signs which advise motorists not to pass school buses when lights are flashing.

You may be interested to know ministry staff have reviewed the fines for similar infractions in other Canadian jurisdictions. Their review indicates the fine in British Columbia is relatively low by comparison. As such, I have directed ministry staff to raise the topic of the level of the penalty with the BC Association of Chiefs of Police to obtain their feedback as to how a change in the fine amount would impact their enforcement practices.

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Should you have any questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the ministry's Manager of Road/Rail Policy, Kirk Rockerbie. He can be reached by telephone at 250 953-3068 or by e-mail at Kirk.Rockerbie@gov.bc.ca and would be pleased to assist you.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Todd G. Stone
Minister

Copy to: Premier Christy Clark

Kirk Rockerbie, Manager Road/Rail Policy
Transportation Policy and Programs Department