

Premier David Alward,  
Premier of the province  
Fredericton, NB

September 21, 2012

Premier Alward:

The N.B. Common Front for Social Justice is very concerned by the recent decision of Acadian Bus Line to stop providing bus services within our province.

As you are certainly aware, the majority of citizens riding on busses are students, people living on low income and seniors. For a large number of citizens, buses are the only way to travel between regions or to urban centre for medical or professional services, to go back home for students or move between regions or provinces to look for jobs. Moreover, a bus service is absolutely essential service for people living in rural communities

Presently, there are several private companies interested in replacing Acadian Bus Line. The purpose of this letter is to urge you to take into consideration, in your decision making process, which of the submitted proposals will offer the best service from the angle of access to the citizens of New Brunswick. We are asking you to reassure the citizens that the company, or companies, granted the proper licencing from your government are prepared to provide bus services to a larger number of communities than before, not less.

We believe that with the decision of VIA Rail to cut some of its train services, public transportation becomes an increasingly critical issue. With the ever rising cost of fuel it is more pressing than ever to have a more extended bus network, and one which offers quality services.

Another important consideration is the environmental aspect. Rail transportation is much less energy demanding that private care travel. Busses, when carrying a full load of passengers, are less damaging to the environment that dozens of cars with a single passenger.

To keep communities alive and thriving and citizens accessing services, New Brunswickers desperately need to have access to good bus services. This is especially true in rural areas.

As an organization whose role is to intervene in issues affecting citizens living in poverty, we urge you to work toward the improvement of public transportation in the province.

John Gagnon, Co-chair

Linda McCaustlin, Co-chair

cc. Victor Boudreau, Liberal

Dominic Cardy, NDP

Green Party