

# QUALITY OF LIFE? **WE CAN DO BETTER!**

AUTHORIZED BY THE OFFICIAL AGENT OF THE GREEN PARTY OF MANITOBA



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## GREEN PARTY URGES FEDS AND PROVINCE TO MEET WITH GREYHOUND

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

(September, 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009) The Green Party of Manitoba [GPM] is deeply dismayed that Manitobans may lose access to bus service between communities, and is calling on the Governments of Manitoba and Canada to do everything that is necessary to ensure that Manitoba's intercity public transportation remains in operation.

In an April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 press release "Green Leader Takes Bus to Fair" GPM Leader James Beddome stated:

"At the latest budget release I was dismayed to find that this province was investing nothing in intercity bus transportation. This is at a time when rural communities are facing decreasing bus service. A decade ago many communities had twice-a-day service to facilitate their needs to travel to larger centers; now rural communities are lucky if they even have any bus service."

Socially, this is an assault on those who depend on this valuable service, particularly people who cannot afford alternatives -- seniors on a fixed income, students who can't travel home, and rural/north residents who travel for health care.

This will also devastate rural economies. Restaurants, gas stations, tourist destinations, and hotels will take a big financial hit without the flow-through traffic of passengers, tourists and deliveries. The cascading results will be decreased housing values, decreased job opportunities, and decreased access to parcel service (vital in remote rural communities).

A failure to act will further solidify our dependence on automobiles, increasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

"Inaction on this issue will only intensify the NDP's already poor record on reducing road transportation emissions. Contrary to Gary's Greenwash, under the first eight years of his watch GHG emissions from road transportation have increased 15.4% per year, from 4,540 carbon equivalent tonnes of GHG emission in 1999 to 5,240 in 2007." noted Beddome.

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