



The Honourable Brian Pallister
Premier of Manitoba
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Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8
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The Honourable Ron Schuler
Minister of Infrastructure
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Dear Premier Pallister and Minister Schuler,

I am writing to you concerning the recent announcement by Greyhound that it would cease providing passenger service in Manitoba and most of western Canada October 31, 2018.

The loss of this important service will cause hardship for many of our citizens, particularly the most vulnerable Manitobans, and hence it is the responsibility of political leaders to take action.

Intercity mass transportation is an absolutely essential vital service for many Manitobans, particularly for:

- those that rely on Greyhound for transportation to employment or medical appointments,
- senior citizens who may no longer drive,
- children who are below the legal driving age and may rely on Greyhound to visit family and friends,
- those that cannot afford a vehicle, and
- those that choose to take mass transportation for environmental or other reasons to name but a few examples.

We need to recognize that intercity mass transportation services, are in fact an integral and vital part of our road infrastructure. Encouraging more mass transportation reduces the number of vehicles on the road, which reduces the risks of collisions, reduces wear and tear on roads, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

I was therefore disappointed by recent remarks attributed to the Honourable Ron Schuler, to the effect that he "hoped" companies would come forward with business plans to fill the gap left by Greyhound.

We do not rely on the private sector to build, maintain, and develop our road network and likewise some public coordination and public investment in intercity transportation is likely required. Merely hoping that someone in the private sector will step up to the plate is not the kind of leadership Manitobans need.

We expect your government to take an active role in this matter. I urge you to act, without delay, to facilitate the development of a made-in-Manitoba solution. I suggest that you strike a task force composed of representatives from all levels of government (federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations), provide it with sufficient resources to explore policy options, and mandate it to recommend a future course of action that will ensure sufficient passenger bus service throughout Manitoba into the future.

The decision by Greyhound to retreat from passenger service represents both a challenge and an opportunity. Expecting the private sector to step in is no more realistic than is endlessly subsidizing publicly traded companies that operate mass transportation services. Fresh thinking is required and a good place to start is to provide a process for those most affected to develop a fresh response.

This is a matter that requires attention without delay. I look forward to your response. My contact information can be found below my signature.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "James Beddome".

James Beddome, Leader
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