

September 26, 2003

Dear Friend,

Over the past year the Rocky View Regional Handibus Society has been discussing non-profit funding issues with the Alberta Government Ministers. In particular, we have been concerned about funding for specialized transportation in rural and small town Alberta.

This fall, Alberta Municipal Affairs is finally undertaking a review of the specialized transportation component of the Unconditional Municipal Grant Program. This review was originally proposed three years ago. Results of the review will be presented to Cabinet later this fall where it will "...be reviewed in light of the cabinet priorities of the day."

With this review, we believe Alberta's specialized transportation providers have an excellent opportunity to express funding concerns to cabinet. Contacting your local MLA as well as any ministers responsible for your passengers (seniors, children, learning, health and community development) would be wise in preparation for the recommendations of Municipal Affairs.

In addition to contacting the MLA's, we would like help with this brief survey. We would like every community to complete the attached questionnaire. We will compile the responses and send to each Cabinet Minister. We will also send the results to every organization that completes the survey.

Please complete the attached questionnaire and return it by Friday October 17. We've enclosed a return-mailing envelope for your convenience. This questionnaire can be completed online at www.rockyviewbus.ca. From the survey information, we would like to circulate a contact list of Alberta special transportation providers (Handibus, Handivans, Volunteer drivers). Our ability to network will improve if we can keep in contact with each other.

Please feel free to circulate this letter and survey. We are certain that our list of organizations is incomplete. You may know of an organization that could use this information.

Sincerely,

Paul Siller
Transportation Manager