

## School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake)

### Student Transportation System

The school district currently owns and operates 55 school buses. For 2011-2012 there were 36 regularly scheduled bus runs. The additional buses were deployed as spares to sites throughout the district in support of service to students when the regular bus is off the run for servicing, or is being deployed on a trip. In addition to the regularly scheduled bus runs the Transportation Department completed approximately 1200 curricular and extra-curricular bus trips in the 2010-2011 school year, in support of requests from schools.

The Transportation Department continues to see reduced ridership as well as increased costs specific to regulatory compliance, fuel, lubricants, and parts associated with the operation and repair of school buses. The allocation for student transportation received from the Ministry has remained relatively unchanged for over ten years.

In an effort to remain effective and efficient the Transportation Department is considering the restructuring of a number of school bus routes for the 2012-2013 school year. The areas being considered are in the Slocan Valley, Nelson, and Creston areas. These changes are expected to reduce the total number of regularly scheduled bus routes from 36 to 33. The resulting savings are anticipated to be over \$80k annually.

In 2009 the Board of Education adopted a number of recommendations from the Student Transportation Services Review. One of the recommendations was to discontinue out-of-catchment bus service. The Transportation Department has moved towards compliance with that recommendation through the elimination of cross-boundary secondary student bussing.

For 2012-2013 bus fees for out-of-catchment students have been approved by the Board of Education. The fees are expected to generate over \$80k annually and are based on the following:

- *\$200 annually for a single student,*
- *\$400 annually for two students from a single family,*
- *\$500 annually for three or more students from a single family.*
- *The fees are expected to be paid in quarterly installments with an incentive of a ten percent (10%) discount if the entire years' fees are paid in full by October 15<sup>th</sup>.*
- *A request to waive the fees will be considered in compliance with Board Policy.*