

SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE FOR SCHOOL BOARD USE

## New mandatory bus driver training may cause driver shortage

**[INSERT SCHOOL BOARD NAME]** urgently requests government funding for the Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) for new bus drivers

**Feb. X, 2019, Edmonton, AB** —Effective March 1, 2019, new school bus drivers will be required to complete an enhanced driver program called MELT. This costly program has been rushed in its implementation, and may cause a bus driver shortage, potentially resulting in children being unable to make it to school. This puts undue pressure on **[INSERT SCHOOL BOARD NAME]**, our schools, parents and students.

**“[INSERT QUOTE ABOUT LOCAL REALITIES],”** said **[INSERT NAME]**, Board Chair, **[INSERT SCHOOL BOARDS NAME]**. **“[INSERT ADDITIONAL QUOTE ABOUT LOCAL REALITIES].”** In conjunction with the Alberta School Boards Association, **[INSERT SCHOOL BOARD NAME]** is urging government to provide the funding that covers the full cost of the MELT program.”

At **[SCHOOL BOARD NAME]**, we are already running transportation deficits. This mandatory training program will only serve to put further strain on our budget. In fact, we may be forced to use funds allocated for the classroom simply to pay for this additional requirement. For example, **[INSERT LOCAL EXAMPLE]**.

**[INSERT SCHOOL BOARD NAME]** welcome(s) the opportunity to chat with MLAs or members of Alberta’s other political parties.

**[INSERT BOILERPLATE/ QUICK SENTENCE ABOUT BOARD]** For more information about **[INSERT SCHOOL BOARD NAME]**, visit, **[INSERT WEBSITE]**.

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**Media inquiries:**

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