

TRI-BOARD TRANSPORTATION CONSORTIUM IN THE WORKS

The Conseil scolaire public du Nord Est de l'Ontario (CSDNE), District School Board Ontario North East (DSBONE), and the Northeastern Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) are pleased to announce that they are taking the first steps towards the creation of a Transportation Consortium. The new entity, which may be in place as early as March, will oversee the operation of student busing for the three boards.

The decision to proceed with the development of a consortium follows the announcement by the Conseil scolaire catholique de district des Grandes-Rivières to run their bus services independently.

Currently, transportation services are provided by the four boards through a Joint Transportation Partnership. Joint policies approved by all four boards in the past will continue to guide transportation for the remainder of the 2004-2005 school year. This will ensure a seamless transition. New busing arrangements will become effective in September 2005.

The CSDNE, DSBONE and the NCDSB are committed to working together in the coming months to create a consortium that will maintain and enhance services for their students. A feasibility study has been conducted, which has indicated that a transportation consortium is the optimal model for delivery of student busing in our communities. By providing a 'one road - one bus' approach, the inefficiencies of having multiple buses travelling down the same streets will be minimized. Discussions are under way to develop new guidelines and policies and to facilitate the conversion of student transportation data and routes. In addition to these steps, one of their priorities will be the establishment of consistent, equitable and fair walking distances within each of our communities.

The Ministry of Education has frequently endorsed the use of consortia as the most effective method of delivering safe and accessible transportation services for Ontario students. In keeping with this insight, the three boards look forward to the formalizing the new tri-board consortium which will allow them to operate in the most fiscally responsible manner.

The consortium will provide transportation services to students at 68 schools within the districts of Cochrane and Timiskaming.

For more information, please contact:

Mélanie Bidal-Mainville, Community Relations Officer, NCDSB



**Northeastern Catholic
District School Board**

101 Spruce Street North
Timmins, Ontario P4N 6M9
Tel: (705) 268-7443 Fax: (705) 264-0333
P. Toffanello, Director of Education
C. Landers, Chair of the Board

www.ncdsb.on.ca



**District School Board
Ontario North East**

153 Third Ave
Schumacher, ON P0N 1G0
Tel: (705) 360-1151 Fax: (705) 268-7100
L. Knight, Director of Education
J. Leukert, Chair of the Board

www.dsb1.edu.on.ca



**Conseil scolaire public
du Nord Est de l'Ontario**

310 Algonquin
North Bay, ON P1B 9T5
Tel: (705) 472-3443 Fax: (705) 472-5757
M. Robineau, Directeur de l'éducation
D. Labelle, Président du conseil

www.csdne.edu.on.ca