



January 11, 2024

Her Worship
Mayor Joan Atkinson
The District of Mackenzie
1 Mackenzie Boulevard
Mackenzie BC V0J 2C0

Reference: 321852

Dear Mayor Atkinson:

Re: Kimta Transportation Society

Thank you for your letter of November 3, 2023, regarding the Kimta Transportation Society. Our government recognizes that the Kimta shuttle is highly valued by its community and partners. I was pleased to have the opportunity to discuss this with MLA Mike Morris, who brought it to my attention directly.

Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) has received an additional \$5 million in funding from the ministry to extend northern passenger transportation services, including the Northern Community Shuttle Program and BC Bus North, through 2026/2027. I encourage Kimta to reapply for funding at the next Northern Community Shuttle Program intake in 2024 to support its ongoing operating costs. If granted, this funding could help cover the ministry's annual licensing fee, as well as insurance and the vital safety and mechanical inspections that keep customers and other travelers safe.

As you note, Mackenzie is also served by BC Bus North and the Northern Health Connections Bus. There may be opportunities for the Kimta Transportation Society to coordinate with these other services and NDIT to integrate routes and scheduling to help ensure the needs of the Mackenzie community are met.

You may also know that the ministry has committed funding to support development of the Connected Network, a new online platform led by Pacific Western Transportation planned to launch in 2024. This program will allow users to plan and book trips in northern B.C. more easily and will allow providers to better understand ridership demand while improving service through schedule alignment and integration.

The ministry is continuing to work to learn more about the challenges that different regions and rural areas are facing to inform how we address passenger transportation across the province over the long term.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Fleming". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rob" and last name "Fleming" clearly distinguishable.

Rob Fleming
Minister

Copy to: Mike Morris
MLA, Prince George-Mackenzie