



T | 604.872.8212 F | 604.876.8450 E | info@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca

www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca

Honorable Claire Trevena
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
British Columbia
Via Email: Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca

July 20, 2018

Dear Minister Trevena,

We, the collective of Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter, are deeply concerned about the loss of the Greyhound bus system in Western Canada.

The loss of the Greyhound will have a devastating impact on women. Without safe interurban transportation options, women are left hitchhiking and using ride shares. As others have already noted, a lack of safe transportation will increase women's vulnerability to male violence and there will be more raped, murdered and missing women.

The women who call us rely on transportation to get free from abuse. They travel to get to a transition house in a different community. They go across provinces to get as far away as possible from their abusers. They get on the bus to start new lives, to use exiting services, and to go where they are safe. We have relied on Greyhound bus services to provide reliable transportation in the form of buses and depots. It is essential that women have the ability and freedom to move.

We urge you to find a solution. At the minimum, women need a safe, reliable and affordable bus system that will replace the lost Greyhound system. The best solution is free, publicly controlled and safe transportation for women escaping violence and for those traveling in isolated and dangerous stretches of highway.

The province has to guarantee transportation that will ensure and secure the safety and lives of women.

We urge you to do what is right for women and to put pressure on and cooperate with the federal government to meet the needs of the women of this country. We demand that Canadian women are not left stranded.

Sincerely,

Tannis Larsen
For the collective of Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter