New Nouveau
Brunswick
CANADA

December 1, 2009

[redacted]
Safety and Security
Transport Canada
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0N5

Dear [redacted]

One of the recommendations from the Coroner's inquest on the Bathurst accident was that all vehicles transporting students must have winter tires. In response to this recommendation the Department of Education developed a tire policy that was reviewed by an independent expert Professional Engineer in the tire field. This expert confirmed that the appropriate tire combination for rear wheel drive vehicles is traction or winter tires on the rear axle and "ribbed" or "steering" tires on the front axle.

On November 4, 2009, [redacted] Road Safety Department, Transport Canada emailed our School District Superintendent and copied one of the parents, [redacted], from the Bathurst accident and [redacted] indicating that he had been in contact with [redacted] concerning winter tires being used on the one ton multi functional activity vehicle being used to transport students. This is the first that we were made aware that Transport Canada was discussing our tire policy for extra curricular travel vehicles. Because of the urgent nature of this issue, we directed our Professional Engineer to actively pursue resolution of this matter with Transport Canada.

Our consultant agrees with all of [redacted] recommendations except for rear wheel drive vehicles traveling primarily on two lane highways between cities (intercity travel) and is of the opinion that although winter tires will generally improve vehicle handling and safety for most low speed and highway situations, an "oversteer" condition can have serious consequences and must be addressed before recommending a change in policy. He has asked [redacted] on more than one occasion to respond to the following:

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