

Ministry of
Transportation

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8
416 327-9200
www.ontario.ca/transportation

Ministère des
Transports

Bureau de la ministre

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AUG 15 2019

107-2019-2458

Ms. Maria Rizzo
Chair of the Board
Toronto Catholic District School Board
80 Sheppard Avenue East
Toronto ON M2N 6E8

Dear Ms. Rizzo:

Thank you for your letter regarding school bus seatbelts. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The safety of occupants in all vehicle types is a priority for me and my ministry—especially the safety of our children travelling on school buses. Our research shows that riding on a school bus is 16 times safer than travelling in a family car, largely due to the vehicle's design. A combination of how far apart seats are spaced as well as the materials that seat backs are made from gives passengers of different ages and sizes maximum protection in the event of a collision. However, as part of our commitment to improve road safety and compliance, my ministry regularly reviews its policies and practices to see if they are in keeping with current research findings and best practices worldwide.

The federal and provincial governments share the responsibility of regulating school bus safety. While the province is responsible for maintaining on-road regulations for vehicle safety, new school buses sold in Canada are regulated by Transport Canada and they determine which vehicles are required to be equipped with seatbelts.

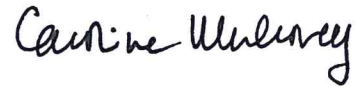
The federal government has committed to reviewing occupant protection in school buses by establishing a task force on school bus safety. This task force is responsible for engaging with government partners, safety advocates and other stakeholders to identify and assess ways to improve school bus safety in Canada. Ontario continues to work with our national partners on this important issue. For more information on the task force, please contact Transport Canada at:

330 Sparks Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0N5
Telephone: 1-800-333-0371
Email: Questions@tc.gc.ca

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Thank you again for writing and sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Mulroney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation