



November 30, 2021

To the Mayor of Burlington and City Councillors,

We are writing to express our concern about the recent closing of Burlington Taxi and to urge the City of Burlington Council to assist in establishing a new licenced taxi service for Burlington.

The Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS), the consortium that provides school transportation for students attending the public and Catholic schools in Halton, was informed on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, that taxi services would no longer be provided beginning Friday, November 26, 2021. For the past several years, Burlington Taxi has provided transportation for students to attend special programs that are not offered in their home school. In total 35 students are impacted by this business closure.

Transporting students to and from school by taxi is a long-standing, efficient arrangement between taxi companies in other Halton municipalities and HSTS. This practice is common to many Ontario school boards.

For a variety of reasons, school bus or municipal bus transportation are not suitable for some of our students with complex needs. The use of alternative, independent and unregulated transportation providers (e.g. Uber/LIFT) would not meet our safety requirements for transporting students. School bus operators do not have the capacity to retain full-time drivers and vehicles for these students who need independent transport twice daily. It is cost prohibitive to provide transportation services in this way.

A long-term solution, which includes a licenced taxi service, is needed in Burlington for transporting our students.

As leaders, we have a shared responsibility for the safety and well-being of the youngest and most vulnerable members of our community. We look forward to hearing back from you with some viable options that will address this urgent and time-sensitive matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Ennis', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Curtis Ennis  
Director of Education  
Halton District School Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Daly', with a stylized, cursive script.

Pat Daly  
Director of Education  
Halton Catholic District School Board

Cc

Andréa Grenbec, Chair, HDSB  
Patrick Murphy, Chair, HCDSB