

House of Commons

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Charlie Angus

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Corina Moore
CEO Ontario Northland
555 Oak Street East
North Bay, ON P1B 8L3

BY FAX: 705-472-4267

April 8, 2016

Re: Bus service for Northern Ontario residents

Dear Ms. Moore,

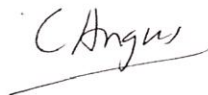
I am writing you in regards to complaints I have been receiving from residents in the north about the deteriorating opportunities to access public transit on the Highway 11 corridor. Of specific concern is the night schedule for bus service from Toronto to points north of North Bay. The new schedule is so disruptive for passengers that it has caused a number of my residents to consider other options.

Having taken the night bus many times in my life, I know that the connection at North Bay comes in the middle of the night and can sometimes be uncomfortable for travellers. However, under the present schedule people leaving Toronto at 11:30 at night arrive at North Bay bus terminal at 4:40 in the morning and then must wait nearly 2.5 hours before the bus to Englehart and points north departs at 7:00 AM.

From a customer service point of view this long layover in the middle of the night is both brutal and unaccommodating. I am deeply concerned that this distinctly passenger-unfriendly schedule will actively dissuade people from using the service. If we see a decline in passenger numbers it will certainly make it easier for the Wynne government to move forward with their desire to dismantle this vital public service.

People across our region are still suffering from the loss of train service. At that time, northerners were promised that they would receive “enhanced” bus service. This has not happened. In fact, options for public transit have further deteriorated. I am asking you to look into the scheduling issues related to the night service as we all need to work hard together to maintain this vital public option for transportation in the north east.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C Angus". The signature is written in dark ink and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Charlie Angus
Member of Parliament for Timmins – James Bay

cc. John Vanthof, MPP Timiskaming-Cochrane