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# REPORT

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## ***Business Arising***

- Letter from Heather Campbell, Director of Education, to the Minister of Transportation regarding highway safety concerns.



# *Rainy River*

## DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

November 1, 2016

### EDUCATION CENTRE

522 Second St. E.  
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The Honorable, Steven Del Duca,  
Minister of Transportation  
Queen's Park/Minister's Office  
77 Wellesley Street West  
Ferguson Block, 3rd Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Del Duca,

I am writing on behalf of the RRDSB to express very our real concerns for the safety of the students, staff, parents/guardians, visitors and busses that deliver the students to and from Crossroads school every day of the school year. Crossroads school is located in Lavallee Township, on Highway 613N, less than 1 kilometre north of Highway 11. The current speed approaching, from both the north and the south, and in front of the school is 80 km per hour, a speed our Board feels is excessive and dangerous.

### WEB SITE:

[www.rrdsb.com](http://www.rrdsb.com)

You should note that the speed limit at the entry to Highway 613N, from Highway 11, is only 60 km/hr but it quickly increases to 80 km/hr just a short distance before the entrance/exit to the school. Additionally, Highway 613N, is a very busy secondary highway. It is the main route to Crossroads School and Naicatchewenin First Nation and with the recent redirection of logging routes there has been a significant increase in the number of semi-trucks and other large commercial vehicles speeding by the school at 80km/hr each day.

### DIRECTOR

Heather Campbell

Approximately 150 students attend Crossroads and there is also a childcare center located within the school. The child care center staff often take the young children for walks along the roadway as there are no sidewalks and it is the only route available to them. As well, during school events the large number of attendees often have to park on the narrow highway in front of the school.

All of the above information clearly illustrates that this busy highway, with an 80 km/hr speed limit, poses a serious threat to safety to the school community and is therefore of great concern to our Board. As the Board is charged with student safety and well-being we respectfully ask that you designate the area approaching, from the north and the south, and adjacent to Crossroads School as a School Safety Zone. This would involve lowering the speed limit on that stretch of Highway 613N to 60km/hr and alerting motorists that they are near a school. Lowering the speed limit for this very short distance would increase the safety of all road users by reducing, and potentially preventing future accidents, injuries and fatalities which, with the present speed limit, we feel are inevitable.

On behalf of the Rainy River District School Board, I thank you, in advance, for your attention to this request to make Highway 613N safer for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H Campbell".

Heather Campbell,  
Director of Education  
Rainy River District School Board

- c. Sarah Campbell, MPP, Kenora-Rainy River
- Bill Mauro, MPP, Thunder Bay-Atikokan
- Ken McKinnon, Reeve of LaVallee
- Alicia Gattoni, Crossroads School Council Chair
- Alicia Gattoni, Countryview Child Care Centre
- Trustees