



# NEWSLETTER

Alberta Student Transportation Advisory Council



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

My name is Shevon Coram, and I am the Chair of the Alberta Student Transportation Advisory Council, more commonly known as ASTAC.

ASTAC has been a major stakeholder in the school bus industry for over 40 years.

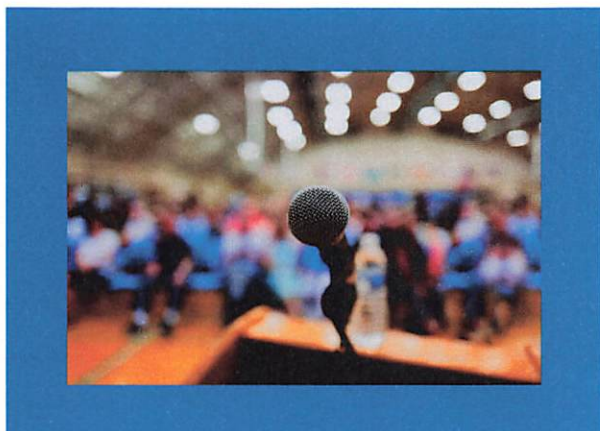
The Alberta Student Transportation Advisory Council (ASTAC) is composed of Bus Contractors (Alberta School Bus Contractors' Association) along with Industry members and Supplier representation.

ASTAC is responsible for the "train the trainer" program, which enables individuals to become driving instructors, the annual School Bus Rodeo and working with provincial leaders to lobby for positive change in our industry. There is a host of other initiatives that ASTAC is a part of but you'll have to read on to find out more!

## TOWN HALL MEETING

On September 21, 2023 ASTAC hosted a Town Hall Meeting to discuss how to operate successfully under current circumstances that include funding constraints, TEC training programs, examiner shortages and driver shortages.

[Read More](#)

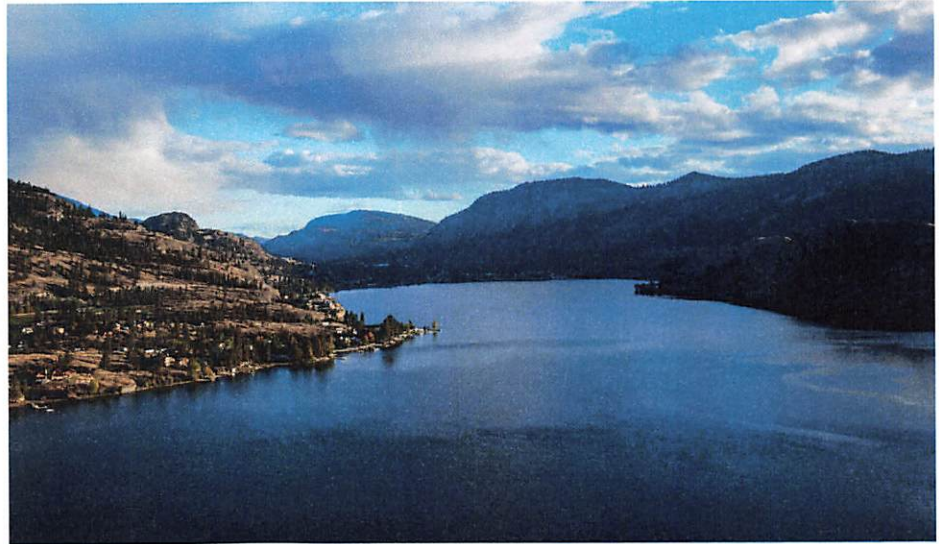


## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, June 8th, 2024**  
41st Annual Alberta Provincial  
School Bus Roadeo 2024

**July 8-12, 2024 - Penticton BC**  
13th Canadian Pupil  
Transportation Conference

**October 3, 2024**  
2nd Annual Town Hall Meeting  
hosted by ASTAC



## CPTC CONVENTION

Please join us in beautiful Penticton, BC, to take part in ASTSBC 13th Canadian Pupil Transportation Conference. Hotel information is listed on the ASTAC site and open to bookings, as well as the highlights of the convention. Pricing packages to follow. Don't miss out and book your hotel today! <https://astac.ca/conventions/>

## TOWN HALL MEETING CONTINUED

The event was highly productive, with constructive discussions that brought to light the challenges faced by the school bus industry. The Minister of Education, Demetrios Nicolaidis, along with other important stakeholders, attended the meeting. This is an ongoing collaboration, and we have already seen positive changes, such as the announcement of additional Driver Examiners to reduce wait times for road exams and ongoing discussions with ministry members to address critical issues and find solutions.

## SAFETY TIP

Mental pre-trip is also important. Driving a school bus is an enormous responsibility, one that many drivers embrace with competence and compassion for the precious cargo they transport. For others, however, it can involve both drama and trauma. In addition to monitoring both the road and the rearview mirror to keep an eye on the kids, some bus drivers find themselves personally targeted. It is important to ensure that your mental health is in check. If you are having issues with students, parents or other staff please reach out to your supervisor.

## BECOME A SPONSOR

Become a Platinum Sponsor of ASTAC and post ads for free in our classifieds section on our website. Advertise your buses for sale, training courses, and job postings. Visit our classifieds for more information.

## S ENDORSEMENT

Do you need an S Endorsement Train the Trainer or an S Endorsement course?

Please reach out to Kelli at [astac.alberta@gmail.com](mailto:astac.alberta@gmail.com) for more information.

## SCHOOL BUS ROADEO 2024

### 41st Alberta Provincial School Bus Rodeo 2024

**Date:** Saturday, June 8th, 2024

**Banquet Location:** Best Western Premier Denham Inn & Suites

**Rodeo Event:** AMTA site at the Edmonton International Airport

**Accommodations:** Best Western Premier Denham Inn & Suites or Best Western Plus Hotel

More information to follow. If you have any questions, please email Kelli at [astac.alberta@gmail.com](mailto:astac.alberta@gmail.com)



## ART AVAILABLE

We are excited to announce that ASTAC has a limited edition school bus print available for sale! This beautiful print is a perfect addition to any collection, and it's a great way to show your support for ASTAC and school bus safety.

To learn more about this exclusive offer and to purchase your own print, please reach out to us at [astac.alberta@gmail.com](mailto:astac.alberta@gmail.com). We will be happy to provide you with all the details you need.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to own a piece of ASTAC history. Contact us today to secure your limited edition school bus print!



## TOWN HALL 2.0

We're excited to announce that ASTAC will be hosting a Town Hall Follow-Up event in October 2024, and we'd love for you to join us!

This event will be an excellent opportunity for us to come together once again, reflect on our previous discussions, and delve deeper into the topics that matter most to our school bus industry. Your insights and participation are invaluable to us, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas.

Please mark your calendars for October 3rd, 2024, and stay tuned for further details, including the agenda and how to RSVP. We can't wait to see you there!

If you have any questions or suggestions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

### ASTAC TEAM

Chair: Shevon Coram      Secretary: Kelli Pickett      ASBCA Reps: Mark Critch, Yacine Belhadj, Yvonne Cumbleton, Sue Fowler, Kyrie Guerts, Brian Hauptman, Sue Connell, Arjan Slagmolen  
Industry members: Lynne Lambert, Kristi Edwards, Craig Makokis  
Supplier Representatives: Doud DeHoop, Shaun Greenaway, Paul Gabbev, Kris Dumanski.