

April 1, 2025

## VIA EMAIL

Ref: 23314

Dear: Public School Districts, Independent Schools, and Band Operated School Authorities

### Re: AMENDED 2025/26 School Bus Purchasing

In consultation with the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Association of School Transportation Services of BC has coordinated a Bus Standing Offer for upcoming school bus purchases by public school districts, independent schools, and band operated school authorities.

As part of this process, bus vendors were invited to submit standing offer prices for various types of buses and components that must meet current federal and provincial regulations and requirements, CSA D250-22 standards, as well as minimum specifications as contained in TRA-25-01 of the Bus Standing Offer.

As of the date of this letter (April 1, 2025), import tariffs are not currently applicable to school buses listed under TRA-25-01. However, given the current trade volatility and the rapidly evolving import tariff landscape, we strongly recommend that independent schools and band operated school authorities seek clarification from bus vendors (see contact information on the following page) regarding the terms of their purchase contracts, and specifically in relation to any import tariffs that may be imposed at the time of delivery and invoicing, as import tariffs introduced in the future will be the responsibility of the purchaser.

With the above-mentioned in mind, public school districts are also to seek clarification from bus vendors regarding the terms of their purchase contracts, and specifically in relation to any import tariffs that may be imposed at the time of delivery and invoicing. Public school districts are to contact the Ministry in regard to funding availability pertaining to import tariff costs that become known at the time of delivery and invoicing, to determine the amount of potential cost coverage or cost-share.

All purchasers are to note that import tariff charges will appear as a separate line item on bus vendors invoices at the time of delivery. Supporting documentation of import tariffs, such as a Customs Invoice, should accompany bus vendors invoices at the time of delivery for import tariff cost accountability and transparency purposes.

We encourage all purchasers to stay informed and consult directly with bus vendors to fully understand any potential cost implications related to import tariffs above-and-beyond the bus standing offer prices identified in TRA-25-01.

Bus purchasers are to contact approved bus vendors directly to enter into contracts to purchase school bus(es) **from April 2, 2025 to June 2, 2025**, and can use a purchase order (Draw Down Form) to complete purchase(s), typically available at this Bus Standing Offer <u>link</u>.

Those intending to purchase electric buses are recommended to first review supplementary funding opportunities and requirements at this <u>link</u> before contacting bus vendors, and specifically for public school districts, are to also confirm their electric bus approvals and funding are in place with the Ministry.

Public school districts may contact Ministry Branch Director <u>Michael Nyikes</u> regarding the above-mentioned, with independent schools and band operated school authorities to contact their representative organizations (<u>Federation of Independent School Associations</u>, <u>First Nations Education Steering Committee</u>). Alternatively, bus purchasers may also contact the <u>Association of School Transportation Services of BC</u>.

Sincerely,

Michael M.C.

Michael Nyikes, Director Education and Child Care Capital Branch Ministry of Infrastructure

#### Approved 2025/26 BC Bus Vendor Contact Information

**BYD Canada (BYD / Ride)** 60 Travail Road, Markham, ON, L3S 3J1 Contact: Stephen Sang Phone: 647-407-8788 Email: <u>stephen.sang@byd.com</u>

#### Dynamic Specialty Vehicles Ltd. (Blue Bird, Micro Bird)

18550 96th Avenue, Surrey, BC, V4N 3P9 Contact: Mike Fraser Phone: 604-882-9333 / Cell: 604-812-8946 Email: <u>mike@dynamicspecialty.com</u>

# Velocity Truck Centre Vancouver (Thomas Built Bus)

18688 - 96th Avenue, Surrey, BC, V4N 3P9 Contact: Brandon Praud Phone: 604-882-5827 / Cell: 604-842-0334 Email: <u>bpraud@vvgtruck.ca</u>

#### Western Canada Bus (IC Bus, Collins Bus)

19880 96 Avenue, Langley, BC, V1M 3C1 Contact: Joel Landry Phone: 800-661-9316 / Cell: 604-314-9799 Email: joel.landry@wcbus.ca