**Letter Template**

Across the province, Nova Scotia’s 1493 school buses make up Atlantic Canada’s largest fleet, with monumental potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Electrifying the entire Nova Scotia school bus fleet would eradicate more than 23,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions every single year and dramatically improve the air quality that our children breathe on their way to and from school every day. We are living in a climate emergency, while also facing a health crisis where children’s hospitals are overstretched with kids struggling with respiratory issues. So why are we still powering our school bus fleet with diesel that causes air pollution, poor health effects, and climate change?

**Pen a letter to Premier Tim Houston and Education Minister Becky Druhan advocating for a complete transition to electric school buses in Nova Scotia. If you're specifically addressing HRCE and CSAP schools, address the current Director of Operations Services in your letter. Let's work together to create a safer and healthier future for our children and communities.**

Dear (Minister/Premier),

We need to electrify our transportation in order to meet our climate targets. We can make progress on this by switching Nova Scotia’s school bus fleets to electric buses, helping our climate and improving our children’s health.

Diesel buses cause emissions that are harming our kids’ health, especially those with asthma or other respiratory issues. Switching to electric school buses is a chance to help reduce not only our carbon emissions and meet our climate goals, but also help take pressure off our struggling healthcare system.

We have no electric school buses in this province. And we have not taken federal funding available to help transition our fleets. This makes no sense in this day and age. Quebec and Prince Edward Island have both made big steps to electrify their school buses, and there is no reason we can’t do the same.

Please act now to switch over the province’s school buses to electric and mandate that private contractors do the same by 2035. We need to lower our emissions and pressures to the healthcare system in this province. Electric school buses are a great way to do both. Do the right thing to protect our children’s health and meet our climate goals. Take diesel school buses off our roads before they cause any further damage to the health of our communities and our environment.

Thank you.

Sincerely,   
[your name will go here]   
[your email address will go here] [your location will go here]

**START A PETITION TO RAISE AWARENESS AND BUILD IMPACT**

Tell your elected officials it’s time to ditch diesel school buses!

The majority of [your town or community]’s school buses currently run on dirty diesel fuel, allowing diesel pollution to negatively impact children’s health and our environment. As a member of the community and a parent, I believe it is our responsibility to act towards a more sustainable and healthier future for our children and communities.

Electric school buses will result in significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, improved air quality, and lower maintenance and fuel costs. Moreover, studies have shown that electric buses provide a safer and more comfortable ride for children, reducing noise pollution and improving overall health and well-being.

Sign our petition to send a message to [Mayor, school board or target elected official] to prioritize the adoption of electric school buses and to allocate sufficient funding towards this initiative. I believe this would be a critical investment in our children's future and the environment.

*(Note: You can collect petition signatures for number of asks, including to support a bill or for a program to be included in a budget. This petition calls on elected officials to allocate funds in their budget for electric school buses.)*