

**QUESNEL TRANSIT**  
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In April 1982 BC Transit entered into a funding agreement with the City of Quesnel and the Cariboo Regional District for the provision of paratransit service. This door-to-door demand-responsive service was targeted to seniors and special needs persons. In September 1993 a fixed route service was implemented but due to low ridership levels, the service was stopped 20 months later.

In 2000, BC Transit conducted a Quesnel Transit Expansion Study for the City of Quesnel. A proposal to offer improved service, gain identified growth markets and attract more customers was put forth. Two volunteers conducted local telephone and door-to-door surveys to ensure a localized view of what was needed for Quesnel. BC Transit and the City of Quesnel entered into a funding agreement in April 2001 to offer an incorporated fixed-route, flexible route and custom service. In order to serve residential neighborhoods along with commercial areas and high schools, two main routes were created with two 20-passenger Polar buses put into service. A case study of the set-up and considerations for transit in Quesnel can be found at [www.energyaware.bc.ca](http://www.energyaware.bc.ca).

Soon after the service began it became evident that an integrated service was not optimal. Seniors and special needs passengers were not being well serviced for several reasons, including not being able to access a bus at the times they required along with the difficulty of providing door to door service due to Quesnel's winter conditions. The larger Polar buses were hard to maneuver in small lanes and driveways. A significant change was made in June, 2002, when the City elected to provide these clients with their own transportation once more. The two Polar buses were then able to concentrate on regular riders only. A smaller, 7-passenger van was returned to service once again, offering seniors and special needs clientele much better service.

Another positive addition to Quesnel Transit was the McGruff Safe House Program, launched in October 2002. Buses and bus drivers now offer a safe haven for anyone lost or afraid. It is especially geared toward children.

Each year since Transit's inception our ridership has increased. At this time, the schedule is again being revised to improve service, change routes and offer more options to riders. Fares are currently very reasonable at \$1 for seniors/students, \$1.25 for adults and handiDART. Due to provincial cutbacks, fares will increase \$.25 across the board as of April 1, 2003.

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