

I am Shirley Edwards and I live on Lawndale Avenue.

In 2019 three of us gathered signatures from 372 homes and fifty-seven cyclists in North Gonzales, all opposing the GNS expansion plans. Residents were highly upset with the constant cut-through traffic created by GNS which brought daily safety issues for their children. Some residents stated they'd been complaining to the school for years about the traffic and buses cutting down their streets, but nothing was ever done.

Car and bus traffic continue to funnel down our street causing backups on a daily basis. It is very difficult, and sometimes impossible, for us to come and go from our homes due to the volume and speed of the GNS drivers. The buses take up the whole street and stop the movement of traffic in both lanes. This traffic also circulates more than once which exacerbates the problem for the residents. Speed of the vehicles is another safety concern in this residential area.

In 2002 GNS agreed to have their pickup and drop off on Richmond Avenue, and also to close off the Maddison Street entrance and landscape it - this was not implemented. Had it been instituted as planned, PUDO (pick up and drop off) traffic would have been more appropriately taken off our neighborhood streets, relocated to a collector road, and a better traffic pattern would have been established.

It appears GNS is not only in the business of education as they continually rent out their facilities seven days a week which brings even more traffic onto our local streets. I do not believe this type of business has a place in our residential community.

<https://www.mygns.ca/community/facility-rentals/>

With regard to the current expansion application, GNS have stated they want to increase their student population by 125 students. We believe this number is understated as the application will more than double their existing floor space. This is a major concern for our community because they have been unwilling to implement a safe PUDO program for their school over the last 25 years. It is doubtful they will deal with this major safety issue for the local children and residents. The traffic and safety problem will be much worse. They should be required to ensure all their traffic is directed and accommodated on their property via Richmond Avenue which is a collector road.

It is interesting to note that their published booklet makes NO reference to the safety of the local children and this community.