



October 13, 2023

Carolyn Broady, President  
British Columbia School Trustees Association  
1580 West Broadway, 4th Floor  
Vancouver BC V6J 5K9

Reference: 319268

Dear Carolyn Broady:

**Re: Public Transit for Youth**

Thank you for your letter of July 12, 2023, sharing the British Columbia School Trustees Association's support for the extension of free public transit to youth aged 13 to 18 in B.C.

As you know, the provincial government announced a program in late 2021 making [public transit free for children 12 and under](#). The program provides families across B.C. with more affordable transportation options and will help a new generation of British Columbians choose transit as their first travel option.

The program is now continuing into its second year, and we are monitoring customer feedback to ensure the existing program meets the needs of families across B.C. There are many factors to consider regarding a potential expansion of free or lower-cost transit, including transit capacity and ensuring that existing services can meet an increased demand in ridership. We will keep your organization's support for expansion of the program in mind as we continue to evaluate the program's success and look at potential changes in the future.

As you may be aware, TransLink, which provides transit service in Metro Vancouver, offers concession fares for youth between ages 13 and 18, as well as people 65 and older. In the 130 communities served by BC Transit, local governments are responsible for working with BC Transit to determine service levels, fares and routes, and many communities have developed their own programs to provide discounted or free transit for youth. For example, the City of Victoria offers a [Transit Youth U-PASS](#) providing free transit for youth aged 18 and under.

It may interest you to know that under our [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#), we are taking steps to reduce carbon pollution from transportation by increasing the share of trips made by transit, walking and cycling to 30 per cent by 2030, while reducing kilometres driven by personal vehicles by 25 per cent compared to 2020. We are developing a Clean Transportation Action Plan to help us meet these goals, which will be released shortly. You can learn more about our work to support [cleaner forms of transportation on our website](#).

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You can be sure the provincial government is committed to continuing to look at ways to deliver safe, accessible and affordable transit service across British Columbia.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Fleming".

Rob Fleming  
Minister

Copy to: Premier David Eby

Honourable Rachna Singh  
Minister of Education and Child Care  
MLA, Surrey-Green Timbers

Honourable Dan Coulter  
Minister of State for Infrastructure and Transit  
MLA, Chilliwack

Honourable Mitzi Dean  
Minister of Children and Family Development  
MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin

Honorable George Heyman  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
MLA, Vancouver-Fairview

Honourable Sheila Malcolmson  
Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction  
MLA, Nanaimo

Christina Zacharuk, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Education and Child Care

Reg Bawa, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Policy, Programs and Partnerships Division