



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

3400 - 30TH STREET VERNON, BRITISH COLUMBIA V1T 5E6

TELEPHONE (250) 545-1361 FAX (250) 545-4048

File: 0410

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June 12, 2024

The Honourable Rob Fleming, MLA
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Province of British Columbia
E-mail: Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Grace Lore, MLA
Minister of Children and Family Development
Province of British Columbia
E-mail: MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable David Eby, MLA
Premier of British Columbia, Office of the Premier
Province of British Columbia
E-mail: premier@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Dan Coulter, MLA
Minister of State for Infrastructure and Transit
Province of British Columbia
E-mail: Minister.Slgov.bc.ca

The Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, MLA
Minister of Social Development and Poverty
Reduction
Province of British Columbia
E-mail: SDPR.minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Katrine Conroy, MLA
Minister of Finance
Province of British Columbia
E-Mail: FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Rachna Singh, MLA
Minister of Education and Child Care
Province of British Columbia
E-mail: EDUC.Ministergov.bc.ca

The Honourable George Heyman, MLA
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Strategy
Province of British Columbia
E-mail: ENV.Ministergov.bc.ca

Dear Ministers:

Re: Support of initiative to expand the *Get on Board!* Program to include youth 13-18 in all transit systems in BC

On behalf of City of Vernon Council, I write this letter in support of the Centre for Family Equity's "Transit for Teens" campaign to expand the *Get on Board!* Program by extending free transit to include youth 13-18 in all transit systems in BC.

I would like to begin by expressing gratitude to the province for making transit free for all youth between the ages of 0 and 12 in BC as of September 2021. This mandate to provide safe, reliable, and affordable public transit to families in BC has had long-term positive impact by helping parents/families reallocate money from transportation to other expenses. Currently youth between the ages of 13 and 18 who are in the crucial developmental stage of adolescence and require basic mobility are excluded.

I would like to encourage the province to build on the success of the current approach and raise free transit eligibility up to and including the age of 18. Youth require access to reliable

transportation to promote independence and to access education, jobs, medical appointments, and social connections. For low-income youth, socioeconomic barriers can hinder their ability to engage in important activities. In addition, we must continue encouraging new generations to choose sustainable transportation.

Thank you for considering the expansion of the *Get on Board!* Program to include youth up to and including the age of 18, and the City of Vernon is in support of the Centre for Family Equity's "Transit for Teens" campaign.

Sincerely,



Victor I. Cumming
Mayor

Copy: City of Vernon Council
Harwinder Sandhu, MLA