



July 24, 2024

His Worship
Mayor Victor Cumming
City of Vernon
3400 30 Street
Vernon BC V1T 5E6

Reference: 326921
Your File: 0410

Dear Mayor Cumming:

Re: Transit for Youth

Thank you for your letter of June 12, 2024, sharing your support for the Centre for Family Equity's Transit for Teens campaign.

Our government recognizes the importance of safe and accessible transit for people of all ages, and I appreciated your kind words about our [Get on Board! Program](#), which provides families across B.C. with more affordable transportation options and will help a new generation of British Columbians choose transit as a first travel option.

As the program continues into its third year, we are continuing to monitor customer feedback to ensure the existing program meets the needs of families across B.C. We will keep your comments 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 and Whistler provides free transit for youth up to and including Grade 12. A pilot project in Penticton provides free transit for youth aged 13 to 24, with supporting funding from the federal government's Building Safer Communities Fund. Summerland provides free transit on the Route 30 (connecting to Penticton) for all Summerland residents. Effective September 2024, the Sunshine Coast Regional District, which includes the communities of Gibsons, Roberts Creek, Sechelt and Halfmoon Bay, will be implementing free transit for youth up to age 18.

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To ensure we can continue to support mode shift through access to convenient transit service, [Budget 2024](#) provides approximately \$4 billion in provincial operating and capital funding over the next three years to support transit expansion across B.C.

Encouraging a shift to cleaner forms of transportation is just one of the steps we are taking under our [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#) to fight climate change and promote a healthier environment and more liveable communities. You can learn more about our work to support [cleaner forms of transportation on our website](#).

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Rob Fleming
Minister

Copy to: Premier David Eby

Honourable Katrine Conroy
Minister of Finance
MLA, Kootenay West

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

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

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

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

Harwinder Sandhu
MLA, Vernon-Monashee