



Public transit is an important service for all of us

Affordable, accessible public transit allows us to get from A to B and connect with our communities. It reduces gridlock, contributes to local economies and is good for the environment. But chronic lack of investment has contributed to fare increases and service reductions that hurt low income transit riders the most.

Province needs to pay its fair share for transit operations

According to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the current Ontario funding formula for municipal transit (70% from ridership and 30% from population) places too much burden on the municipality to subsidize their transit system especially for many rural, midsized and sparsely populated municipalities.

The provincial government has committed funds for transit expansion but does not provide stable funding for transit operations.

Public transit expansion – there's a lot on the line

There's not much agreement when it comes to how to pay for transit expansion. It's a tough call. But politicians need to stop evading the question and find the most fair and equitable way to cover the cost. Let's take fare hikes off the table right now. Transit users are already carrying too much of the burden. To achieve a fair balance, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has recommended a mix of sales, payroll and fuel taxes and parking or development charges.

Some have raised the issue of privatization in transit services. But privatization in other cities has led to cancelled routes, increased costs and disputes with private operators. It raises serious concerns like transit access and affordability, safety, maintenance and accountability.

Ask your candidates:

- How will your party ensure fair and equitable methods for funding transit expansion?
- Will your party ensure that the transit system remains publicly operated and maintained?
- What is your party's position on public-private partnerships for transit infrastructure?

Resources:

Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Transit: www.fcm.ca/home/issues/transit-and-transportation.htm

Metrolinx – The Big Move: www.metrolinx.com/thebigmove

Ontario Public Transit Association: www.octa.on.ca

Burlington for Accessible, Sustainable Transit: www.bfastransit.ca