

List of Recommendations

Recommendation One: \$5 billion in emergency funding for Canada's largest transit union to support public transportation.

Body of Submissions

Recommendation One: \$5 billion in emergency funding for Canada's largest transit union to support public transportation. Ridership is down but buses are packed making keeping six feet apart next to impossible. As transit workers get laid off due to lower ridership, services get pulled, fewer buses are on the road, and the buses that are out are more packed: circumstances that produce a high risk of spreading Covid and risks more lockdowns.

Not everyone owns a car, and this winter will people without will have no choice but to take the bus - making crowding problems even worse. In time, if we keep laying off workers and it gets colder, and more people will require public transit. Buses will become packed, needing more cleaning and becoming unsafe. This forces both workers and riders to take more risks. By injecting five billion dollars into public transit, we can hire back the 3800 workers laid off. We can look to programs like the one in Edmonton where transit workers were trained by an outside cleaning company to clean buses and the transit centre. This allowed workers to stay working and keep buses clean and safe.

This is also a chance to build a better transit system. Increasing the amount of buses on the road will allow people to keep six feet apart - but if we add more buses we will only create more traffic. With five billion we can create more bus lanes that will allow buses to move faster through and not add to traffic. This is also a great long-term goal: if we make public transit faster than personal vehicles we can decrease the number of cars on the road and lower our CO2 output. By also making public transit free we give people more of an incentive to take public transit, which will increase the demand for public transit and will increase employment. In a time of uncertain employment we need more jobs with bright futures. For cities public transit is the veins of the city, carrying the very life blood of a city: its people.

