



CUPE LOCAL 561  
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February 17, 2023

Dear UFV Student Union Society,

As you know, Fraser Valley transit operators who are members of CUPE Local 561 have been in a lengthy labour dispute with our employer, First Transit. Our members, who earn 32 per cent less than other transit workers in the region and without a pension, are often forced to work overtime to make ends meet. That is why we have taken job action.

Our strike began on February 2 when drivers stopped collecting fares from our passengers. While we had hoped to reach a deal for a new collective agreement before February 27, this is highly unlikely given the employer's bargaining proposals to date. If we cannot reach an agreement by then, our strike action will expand with various service disruptions. These would include bus service to and from UFV.

We apologize for any inconvenience as a result of our job action, especially for students who have limited commuting options. With the public's support, we hope to end this dispute as soon as possible by reaching a fair deal.

We are reaching out to the Society because we would like UFV students to know what is happening with this dispute and how it will affect them. So please spread the word, and let students know that any support they can give would be greatly appreciated. They can show their support by visiting our picket lines or visiting [www.weneedalift.ca](http://www.weneedalift.ca) to sign the pledge and contact local politicians. The Society could assist by posting the attached flyer on [www.ufvsus.ca](http://www.ufvsus.ca) and displaying hard copies at campus bus shelters and on the union bulletin board. For more information, please contact us at: [firsttransitstrike@cupe561.ca](mailto:firsttransitstrike@cupe561.ca)

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Fraser Valley Transit Workers  
CUPE 561