

July 06, 2023

The Honorable Harry Bains
Minister of Labour

LBR.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Bains,

This letter serves as a follow-up to our previous letter regarding our concerns with the ongoing transit strike that is currently affecting transportation services in the Fraser Valley, and the impacts that it is having on the students of the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV).

On behalf of the students at UFV, we would like to thank you for fulfilling our request of appointing Mr. Vince Ready as mediator, and we have all maintained hope for a hasty resolution to the strike. However, it is disheartening to see that after the initial timeline of negotiations came and went, our students and other stakeholders are now left with an ambiguous and unaccountable request for an open-ended amount of "more time." We urgently request an adequate timeline and clear communication from Mr. Ready and the Ministry of Labour regarding where in the process the parties happen to be, and when the end of the strike can be reasonably expected.

UFV has campuses across the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford, Mission, Chilliwack, and Hope; all of which are areas that are currently affected by the interruption of service. We at SUS are inundated regularly with inquiries from our students who rely on public transportation for information regarding the status of the strike. At the time of writing, the strike has been active for 108 days and counting. That is over fifteen weeks of classes for students, two missed exam periods, and countless dollars spent on other means of transportation.

The fall semester is an extremely busy time for students, many new students will begin their studies and will be forced to navigate transportation in the Fraser Valley, and classes at UFV, for the first time. The challenges and stresses that our new and returning students will face in the fall do not need to be exacerbated by a continued struggle with reliable transportation. Furthermore, this struggle is not the reputation that the Fraser Valley needs, nor deserves, in light of all of the other hurdles that are facing our students in BC.

The UFV Student Union Society is calling for a commitment by the Ministry of Labour to have, by whatever means necessary, the First Transit strike be resolved, with fully functioning and reliable transportation returned to the Fraser Valley by September 06, 2023.

Sincerely,



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Vice President External



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