

May 16, 2023

The Honorable Harry Bains
Minister of Labour
LBR.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Bains,

The purpose of this letter is to advocate on behalf of the University of the Fraser Valley Student Union Society (UFV SUS) regarding the proceedings of the First Transit strike which is affecting the public transit service in the Central Fraser Valley region. At the time of writing, the strike has been actively ongoing for over 50 days; it appears that negotiations have stalled between the two parties, and a finalized agreement could still be far from reach.

Many of the students of the University of the Fraser Valley are reliant on public transportation to commute between class, work, and home. The strike has created difficulty for these students to be academically and economically successful, as a significant percentage of our student population is dispersed throughout the lower-mainland. Alternative methods of transportation have either been extremely limited, time consuming, unfeasible, or too expensive for many of the students who are reliant on public transportation to navigate their busy schedules. For this reason, many students have been forced to make strenuous alterations to their course-load and class schedules, or have been forced to forego taking classes at all.

On behalf of UFV SUS, this letter serves as a call to intervene, in the interest of the public welfare, to bring the two parties into negotiations towards a mutual agreement and a resolution of the dispute. We recognize the NDP as a party which champions the right to collective bargaining; however, the negative impact that this strike is having on the flexibility and success of not only the students of UFV but of all of the local communities affected speaks to the necessity of functional transportation services throughout the Fraser Valley.

If the two parties are unable to settle the dispute privately, then the inclusion of an appointed negotiator is a necessary step towards returning this essential public service to the Fraser Valley and the students of UFV. We strongly request that you intervene and take action towards resolving this issue.

Sincerely,



Jayden Hovey
Vice President External



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