

## Letter from Shelagh Pizey-Allen, TTCRiders

November 11, 2020

**RE: Fully fund the Fair Pass program**

Dear Economic and Community Development Committee,

On March 17, 2020 the City of Toronto quietly stopped processing new applications to the Fair Pass TTC discount program. Some current Fair Pass holders have been unable to renew.

This is completely unacceptable, especially during a pandemic, when people are relying on transit for essential trips to access medical care and food. Forty-three per cent of TTC users surveyed during the pandemic reported that getting groceries was their most important transit trip.<sup>1</sup> The change has caused confusion regarding who is eligible to receive discounted fares.

The Fair Pass Program discounts single fares to \$2.10 and monthly passes to \$123.25 for eligible adult individuals receiving Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), Ontario Works (OW), or a Toronto Child Care Fee Subsidy. Mayor John Tory has promised to fully fund the Fair Pass in 2021 for all residents earning low incomes (defined as the Low-Income Measure +15%).

We, the undersigned, call on the ECDC, Toronto City Council, and Mayor John Tory to:

- 1. Unpause the Fair Pass program immediately!** People are relying on the TTC to make essential trips to access medical care, childcare, employment, and food.
- 2. Keep your promise to fully fund the Fair Pass program in 2021 for all low income residents!**
- 3. Provide deeper discounts.** The Fair Pass program is still unaffordable (\$2.10 for a single fare and \$123.25 for passes). People who receive OW and ODSP need free TTC. The Phase 1 Evaluation Report found that 27% of eligible people reported they cannot even afford to pay the discounted cost of the Fair Pass program.<sup>2</sup>
- 4. Make the application process easier and more accessible.** We want the City to explain why the Fair Pass program cards cannot be mailed to people who receive OW, ODSP, or a Child Care Fee Subsidy without the complicated and onerous application process. The 2019 Phase 1 Evaluation Report documented the barriers that people experience when applying for and using the discount cards; it is shameful that these problems have not all been solved.

Sincerely,

**The undersigned 25 organizations and 120 individuals:**

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<sup>1</sup> Public Transit & COVID-19 Survey by Dr. Matt Palm et al. 2020.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xtbl9nNNcjQFB51-crAG0yC0vSLCHw3M/view>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-139482.pdf>

42 Voices

Association of Part-Time Undergraduate  
Students University of Toronto  
Brentwood Towers Tenant Association  
Canadian Mental Health Association -  
Toronto  
Continuing Education Students' Association  
of Ryerson  
Fair Change  
Fontbonne Ministries  
Free Transit Toronto  
IBEW LOCAL 353  
Midwives Collective of Toronto  
ODSP Action Coalition  
Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP)  
Ralph Thornton Community Centre  
Rights of Non-Status Women's Network  
Scarborough Civic Action Network  
Scarborough Transit Action  
Socialist Project  
South Riverdale Community Health Centre  
The Neighbourhood Group  
Toronto Community for Better Child Care  
Toronto Drop In Network  
Toronto Seniors Forum  
TTCriders  
University of Toronto Factor-Inwentash  
Faculty of Social Work  
University of Toronto Mississauga Students'  
Union (UTMSU)

**Individuals:**

Lucy Drumonde  
Rhiannon Thomas  
Justine Ariza  
Paul Alexander Vaughan  
Melissa  
Melanie Anderson  
Varka Kalaydzhieva  
AnnMarie  
Donia Zhang  
Sharon Anderson  
Mark Brill

Anna Willats  
Nancy Guan  
Nadia Quraishi  
Midori  
Julie Rubenstein  
Robert Williams  
Jaime Kearns  
Annie Antonenko  
Katie  
Shirin Yilmaz  
Lauren Drummond  
sandy da costa  
Janice Wilder  
Beixi Liu  
Michael Esposti  
John Bonnar  
Nadia Saad  
Sam Tecle  
Adria Waram  
Seren Lowell  
Jordan Venton-Rublee  
Jason Watts  
Leanne Wood-Smith  
Greg Albo  
Aviva Gale-Buncel  
Glen  
Victoria Barnett  
Cameron MacLeod  
Eyob Naizghi  
Beatriz Alas  
Christine Swearing  
liz barahona  
Mrs. Ferlyn Matan  
Jessica Kaya  
Archana Dasari

Tracy a  
Hari Somaskantha  
Arden Hagedorn  
Tracy Rafferty  
Taiylor  
Riccardo Caimano  
Sahil Chaini  
Shubham Sindhwani  
Katrina Tortorici  
Safia Siad  
Renee Xu  
Tracy Rafferty  
Jeffery Offe  
Kgomotso Tsatsi  
Sarina Theakston  
Ronny Miranda  
Jocelyn Heaton  
Michael Jack  
Karen Tysdale  
Alex Adams  
Cheryl Reid  
Ashley ERIN Clayton  
Diana  
Joanne Shaland  
Tyrone Tysdale-Montague  
Harin Lee  
Maxine stern  
Tish Solomon  
Alison Logue  
Melissa Baird  
Diana  
Willah Peers  
Tekla Nagel  
Laura Friesen  
Lee Berkowitz  
Kanaka Kulendran  
Paul Letherby  
Sarah Colero  
Molly Hansen  
Mahmood Sarkar  
Yen Duong  
Paul Letherby  
sonjia McEachin  
Tasfia R

Nio  
Emily Damianoff  
Breanne Waltho  
robin sabarillo  
Gilda Martens  
Elissa Park  
Stefan Vladusic  
Ketheesakumaran Navaratnam  
Diane Janzen  
Amy Connolly  
Mary Thomas  
Patrick McDonald  
Xyendra F  
Zeesy Powers  
Jessica Weese  
Holly Kirkconnell  
Alan Barthel  
Susanne Lambert  
Molly Johnson  
Alison Armstrong  
Erika Fenner  
Rebekah Reuben  
Abaigeal Clark  
Candice Leung  
Claudia White  
John Liss  
Michelle Lintott  
Michael Wilson