



Dear City Council,

We, the Centennial College Student Association Inc. (CCSAI), are writing you today on behalf of the 45,000 Centennial College students we represent to express our disapproval of the proposed TTC fare increases for adults and youth, in exchange for 9% less service than pre-pandemic levels. CCSAI calls on you to vote for increased TTC funding in the 2023 City Budget to protect and increase service, lower fares, and invest in supportive staff who are trained to de-escalate crisis situations and provide wayfinding and accessibility services, not more policing.

Students, faculty, and employees from across the Greater Toronto Area use public transportation so they can learn, work, and meaningfully participate at Centennial College. While we commute via public transportation to all five of our campuses, commuter culture is particularly pronounced at our Scarborough locations, Progress Campus and Ashtonbee Campus. Our students currently face infrequent service and crowding on public transit, and with the upcoming closure of the Scarborough RT (Line 3), Centennial College students and Scarborough residents broadly will be disproportionately impacted by reduced services at a greater fare expense.

Those most impacted by reduced services are shift-workers, women, low-income, and racialized individuals – these categories describe many members of the Centennial College community who may live or work far from campus. Service cuts and fare increases means that students will have to pay more for reduced efficiency and more time spent commuting, at the risk of their personal safety in over-crowded vehicles.

Research shows that robust public transportation creates healthy, green, and socially just communities. We call on you to support evidence-based solutions to improve the service, functionality, safety, and accessibility of the TTC. We call on you to support increased funding for the TTC and to support the implementation of alternative revenue streams to fund public transportation. In 2021, a City of Toronto staff report noted that a Commercial Parking Levy could raise between \$191 and \$575 million per year. A Commercial Parking Levy could act as a dedicative revenue stream for transit services, and help the City of Toronto reach its climate goals.

We look forward to your response and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these requests in detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tima Shah'.

Tima Shah  
President  
Centennial College Student Association Inc.