

CUPE BC 2023 CONVENTION TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The CUPE BC Transportation Committee continues to work on a number of issues and areas of concern that affect all members in the transportation sector.

The Committee continues to work on the following areas of focus and concern within the transportation sector, both regionally and provincially.

- Vehicles passing school buses while stopped continue to be a major concern for the safety of our members and the children in our communities. The Committee is working on a campaign with CUPE BC on strategies to create awareness about this concern. We call on the government to increase enforcement and fines against drivers that violate these laws.
- Work rest rules/fatigue management continues to be a hot topic of discussion within the Committee. The Committee will continue to monitor the new work rest rules and how employers are implementing them.
- TransLink having oversight and governance of its subsidiaries continues to negatively impact our members. Centralization of services continues to pose a threat to our members' jobs.
- The Committee has discussed the concern around private "for profit companies" running public transit in parts of BC. We are calling to remove these companies and have public transit operated and maintained by a public entity.
- The Committee will be bringing forward a resolution for CUPE BC to create a Public Transit Policy to address issues like safety, accessibility, affordability, funding, public operation, and rural access.

CUPE BC Transportation Committee Meetings

Our Committee met in November 2022 and in January of 2023. We engaged in a lively round-table discussion and shared strategies regarding issues that are prevalent amongst our locals and District Councils. We discussed the use of file sharing technology that will allow committee members to communicate more effectively with each other and with CUPE BC. This strategy will also reduce the use of paper at meetings. We discussed the importance of accessible public transit and how important it is to all the residents of BC. The Committee has submitted the following resolution to Convention:

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Amend the Policy Manual to add the following new section:

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Accessibility: We support public transit programs, facilities, vehicles and supports that ensure public transportation is accessible to everyone by following the model of universal design.

Affordability: We support the elimination of all fares and user fees for public transit, beginning with the elimination of fees and fares for all transit users 18 years of age and under.

Funding: We support the full public funding for public transportation systems, and the elimination of reliance on gas taxes and other forms of financially unsustainable subsidy and fee models.

Public Operation: We support full public operation of all public transit systems in British Columbia. We support the full elimination of contract operators within public transit systems, including those established by Public Private Partnerships (P3s), and support bringing all transit operations work in-house.

Rural Access: We support the provision of a full public transit systems in small and rural communities, and the provisions of public transportation between small communities and larger, regional centres.

Safety: We support the provision of safe and inviting public transportation systems that ensure riders are free from harassment, discrimination, violence, and other negative and oppressive behaviours that limit access to marginalized groups. We support the provision of mental health and addictions support in public transit systems to support riders experiencing mental health issues and overdoses while using transit systems.

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Conclusion

CUPE members in the Transportation Sector are facing many ongoing and emerging issues. The Transportation Committee looks forward to working with CUPE BC members to tackle these important issues.

We remain committed to raising the profile of the important work that our transportation sector workers do in our communities. We look forward to the work ahead.

The Committee will continue to support transportation workers by participating in campaigns and lobbying politicians at all levels of government across the province and the country.

Respectfully submitted:

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March 2023

