



Students applaud Metro Vancouver Mayors' call for Carbon Tax revenue to support Transit

Surrey BC - The Kwantlen Student Association (KSA) believes that Metro Vancouver's Mayors are on the right track by calling for carbon tax revenue to be allocated for transit. The KSA believes that U-Pass funding would be a perfect fit within any carbon tax transfer to BC's transit systems.

The KSA has been fighting for carbon tax revenues to be allocated to transit for some time, and prior to the election proposed the implementation of the KSA designed Student Transportation Expansion Program ("STEP") [copy attached]. STEP is designed to dramatically increase the number of Post-Secondary Students in BC using public transportation by encouraging expanded use of the U-Pass program. The BC Liberal election platform has adopted portions of STEP and is the only platform to specifically mention U-Pass, and promises to introduce a common U-Pass program for all post-secondary students in BC.

"Students are not asking for a hand-out, but rather a partnership," said Derek Robertson, KSA Director of External Affairs. "A province-wide U-Pass program, funded by both students and the carbon tax, would be a public-private partnership to help save the environment."

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson and Surrey Mayor Diane Watts, along with other Metro Vancouver mayors, have publicly called upon the provincial government to allocate 300 million dollars of carbon tax revenue to public transit. At the current provincial U-Pass usage level, the annual carbon tax allocation to U-Pass under the KSA's STEP Program would only be \$10.9 million per year, which is equal to just 0.59% of current carbon tax revenues. If the program becomes universally successful, with every single post-secondary student in BC on a U-Pass, the total cost of carbon tax funding would still be only \$51.6 million dollars per year. Growth in the U-Pass system would also necessitate growth in the amount of transit drivers, bus routes and infrastructure - which in turn would directly benefit all of the citizens of BC, not just students.

"The most direct way of ensuring that the carbon tax helps the environment is to have carbon tax revenues, at least in part, directed to public transit" said Derek Robertson, KSA Director of External Affairs. "Students are willing to do their part; all we're asking is for the BC government to meet us half way."

- 30 -

The Kwantlen Student Association represents over 18,000 students enrolled at the four Metro Vancouver campuses of Kwantlen Polytechnic University and is Local 26 of the Canadian Federation of Students.

For more information, please contact:

Derek Robertson, Director of External Affairs at 604.319.4906 (cell)
Desmond Rodenbour, Campaign Advisor at 604.512.4487 (cell)

external@kusa.ca (email)
gm@kusa.ca (email)