



# MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## **Students at KSA celebrate the continuation of the U-Pass BC program until 2025**

### **SURREY, BC – The Kwantlen Student Association**

Today, the BC government announced the renewal of the Universal Transit Pass Agreement (U-Pass BC) between TransLink, public post-secondary institutions, and student associations in Metro Vancouver until 2025. This commitment to the U-Pass BC program is a historic victory that students have been working on for over a decade. In a statement, Harry Bains MLA for Surrey-Newton said, "I'm so proud to see our government making transportation more affordable for students in Surrey and across the lower mainland. The increased support for U-Pass BC means students in our community will not have to worry about how they will afford the costs of public transportation, putting more money back into the pockets of our hardworking students."

"The Kwantlen Student Association is delighted to maintain the U-Pass BC program that allows students to access our campuses across the lower mainland. The U-Pass provides our students with a cheap alternative, not only to transit to campus, but to also get to their jobs and move around the region. Furthermore, as a transit user myself, I am extremely grateful for this program," said David Piraquive, President, KSA.

Since the implementation of U-Pass BC in 2010, students have enjoyed affordable and sustainable modes of transportation, where all three travel zones are included in the cost of U-Pass BC. The renewal of U-Pass BC will continue to foster a generation of transit users, with fewer people driving, less traffic congestion and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. This five-year renewal represents the longest timeframe for a U-Pass BC agreement, providing more stability for students who rely on the program. Support from the Province and TransLink has enabled affordable student rates with minimal annual increases in the long-term.

"I am thrilled to see the continuing support for the U-Pass program from the government. The U-Pass program has been extremely beneficial to students by providing an affordable and safe, not to mention sustainable, transportation option to travel across Metro Vancouver," says Michelle Lam, KSA Multipass Coordinator.

Between February 2019 to November 2019, Student Associations in Metro Vancouver hosted successful referenda, approving the continuation of the program until April 30, 2025 – and sending a strong message that this is an invaluable service that students depend on.

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For more information please contact:

**David Piraquive**, Vice President, External  
Affairs  
Kwantlen Student Association  
p 778.878.3099 | e external@kusa.ca

**Michelle Lam**, Multipass Coordinator  
Kwantlen Student Association  
p 604.599.2343 | e mpc@kusa.ca

The Kwantlen Student Association represents over 20,000 students enrolled at the five Metro Vancouver campuses of Kwantlen Polytechnic University.