



Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Hon. Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

RE: Hamilton Light Rail Transit Operation

Dear Honorable Kathleen Wynne,

On behalf of over 350,000 college and university students represented by the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, I am writing to you today to support the Amalgamated Transit Union's *Keep Transit Public* campaign. Specifically, I would like to voice our support for the City of Hamilton's request to Metrolinx to have the city's Hamilton Street Railway agency operate the new Light Rail Transit system from Eastgate Mall to McMaster University.

Students know all too well the value of affordable, reliable and publicly owned and operated transit systems. Whether it be getting from home to school, school to work, or from a student's campus to their hometown to visit friends and family, students rely on public transit every day to help them meet their academic, professional, social and familial obligations. Your government's continued investment in public transit across the province is helping students get from Point A to Point B quickly, safely and affordably, but ensuring that those transit systems are owned and operated by public, local and accountable bodies is crucial to building the kind of trust that leads to higher ridership and utilization of new transit services.

We fully support the City of Hamilton and the ATU in their request to have the Hamilton Street Railway agency operate the LRT line. This would ensure there is accountability and responsiveness to riders' concerns and suggestions, which in turn could lead to increased ridership. In a time where climate change threatens to bring large-scale upheaval to our daily lives, fostering a culture of public transit, as opposed to car ownership, is a crucial step towards reducing our ecological impact.

Ontario is already setting a shining example to other jurisdictions about how to build public transit systems that are safe, affordable, reliable and in line with our values of sustainability. Allowing the Hamilton Street Railway to operate the new LRT line would

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only put us further down the path of more sustainable, fair and just communities. We hope that you give this proposal serious consideration and look forward to continuing to work with your government to make public transit a desirable and effective transportation option not only for students, but all Ontarians.

Sincerely,

Nour Alideeb
Chairperson
Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario

CC:

Fred Eisenberger (Mayor, City of Hamilton)
Eric Tuck (President, ATU, Local 107)