

# Policy Manual

## Issues Policy

---

### **Issues Policy 12 (IS-12): Public Transportation**

Adopted by: Board of Directors

Adopted on: September 09, 2014

#### **Summary:**

Public transit is a crucial issue for post-secondary students and essential to both the quality of life and environmental health of communities. As transportation costs are increasingly downloaded onto municipal governments, public transportation systems have become increasingly inaccessible, unaffordable, and of lower quality. Canada is the only G8 country without a long-term national transit strategy, and this lack of planning shows in the wide disparity of cost and quality between different transit systems across British Columbia and Canada.

As the largest demographic of users of the Kamloops Transit System, students have a distinct interest in building stronger public transportation that will not only benefit ourselves but all citizens in the Kamloops region and beyond.

#### **Policy:**

- I. The Union supports:
  - a. The establishment of safe, accessible, and affordable, municipal public transportation for all post-secondary students;
  - b. Long-term sustainable municipal, provincial, and federal funding for the maintenance and expansion of public transportation networks;
  - c. The creation of a national public transportation strategy between the federal government, provincial governments, and municipalities, that includes permanent, long-term funding for public transportation;
  - d. The inclusion of students in public transportation planning processes;
- II. The Union opposes:
  - a. Decreases in government funding for public transportation;
  - b. The lease or sale of public transportation systems to private operators;
  - c. The establishment of private, for-profit municipal transit services.
  - d. Public transportation planning processes that deny students the right to participate as a critical stakeholder group.