

# Andrea Horwath



**Leader of the Official Opposition**  
**Chef de l'Opposition officielle**  
**MPP / Députée, Hamilton Centre**

## Queen's Park

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Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier  
Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

June 5, 2020

Premier Ford,

I write today to express my serious concern for the desperate situation confronting transit agencies across Ontario, and I urge your government to provide immediate emergency funding to ensure stability for public transit systems.

Over the past months, public transit has seen a drastic drop in ridership and, with that, income. Across the country ridership and farebox revenues have dropped by 85%. In Toronto, the TTC is losing \$90 million each month, forcing the agency to cut necessary services and lay off transit workers. Similar scenarios are unfolding at transit agencies across Ontario.

Public transportation is critical to ensuring thousands of essential workers – workers in hospitals, long-term care homes, grocery stores and pharmacies get to work. Preceding and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, public transit has also ensured Ontarians living with disabilities have equitable access to essentials, greenhouse gas emissions are reduced and those who cannot afford to drive remain mobile. The importance of public transit in ensuring accessibility and environmental sustainability is too great to let agencies hang in peril.

Ontario's public transit agencies, already under pressure, have reached a crisis point in their ability to operate just as the re-opening of the economy has begun, and more people are about to return to work. Emergency funding must be made available to transit agencies now to ensure they can continue to operate and deliver frequent services that guarantees safe physical-distancing can be observed at all times to keep workers and passengers safe.

Premier, municipalities and the Amalgamated Transit Union recognize the serious challenges they face and have been crying out for support from both the federal and provincial governments. To date, neither you nor the Prime Minister has offered any financial support to public transit.

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Now is not the time to evade responsibility. I implore you to step up and answer this call with a commitment to emergency funding for public transit. Transit is critical to the success of our province throughout this pandemic and the recovery in the months ahead.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrea Horwath", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Andrea Horwath,  
Leader Ontario's Official Opposition

cc. Jessica Bell, MPP for University-Rosedale, Official Opposition Critic for Transit  
John Di Nino, President ATU Canada  
Carlos Santos, President, ATU Local 113