



Representing our members from coast to coast in solidarity.  
**One Voice. One Canada. One ATU!**

**Executive Board**

July 29, 2020

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Eric Tuck - Local 107  
Vice-President

Travis Oberg - Local 987  
Secretary to the Board

Paul Churchill - Local 1462  
Executive Member Eastern Canada

Jack Jackson - Local 1572  
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Andrew Cleary - Local 1189  
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Denyse Mitchell - Local 1724  
Executive Member Western Canada

Darcy Pederson - Local 615  
Executive Member Western Canada

Amalgamated Transit Union Canada  
61 International Blvd  
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Etobicoke, Ontario  
M9W 6K4

Tel 416.679.8846  
Toll Free 1.800.263.0710

[www.atucanada.ca](http://www.atucanada.ca)



The Honourable Blaine Higgs, Premier of New Brunswick  
The Honourable Bill Oliver, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
The Honourable Ernie Steeves, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board

Centennial Building  
PO Box 6000  
Fredericton NB  
E3B 5H1

Dear Premier and Ministers:

**Re: Call for New Brunswick Government to reconsider its short-sighted decision to refuse federal funding for transit operations**

The Amalgamated Transit Union is extremely disappointed with your Government's decision to refuse the federal funding offered to help transit operations as part of the Safe Restart Agreement. This is a short-sighted move by a Premier or provincial government where the transit systems are struggling and may not survive the financial impact of COVID-19.

New Brunswick Transit systems have been hit hard during the pandemic with extensive service reductions, layoffs, and devastating farebox revenue losses. As cities continue to reopen and more people return to work, we need to restore pre-pandemic service levels or thousands of tax paying citizens will be left at the curb waiting for a bus and unable to get to work.

Since the start of the pandemic, ATU Canada has been lobbying the Federal Government for emergency funding dedicated to transit operations, to help transit agencies recover from the financial crisis they face. The Federal Government came through with a \$19 billion funding announcement – of which \$1.8 billion was specifically set aside for transit operations – with a condition that the provinces must match the transit funding they receive.

Finally, some great news for transit! So why has your government turned down this funding?



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This is a historic opportunity for the Province of New Brunswick to utilize federal funds so that cities can address the non-recoverable losses suffered under the pandemic without cutting the services that New Brunswickers rely on.

Governments have failed to invest in transit for decades, and it is absolutely wrong to let the public believe that your government will resolve the financial crisis facing public transit without a federal and provincial investment – and without making further cuts to a system that is already in crisis.

We urge you and your Government to reconsider your decision and move forward with a provincial commitment to match the federal funding contribution because public transit is a social good and every \$1 invested in transit delivers \$4 in economic growth. It is critical to New Brunswick's economic recovery.

Please be advised that ATU Canada is ready to launch an active campaign to raise mass public awareness. People have a right to know that your government has made a short-sighted decision that will have long-term negative impacts – especially on the most vulnerable in society who rely on transit. Students, the elderly, low-income, and new Canadians all use public transit at higher than average levels. Stop denying New Brunswickers the transportation service they expect and deserve.

I look forward to a favourable response from you. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you care to discuss.

Sincerely,

John Di Nino  
ATU Canada President  
416 938 0746  
[President@atucanada.ca](mailto:President@atucanada.ca)



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The Honourable Bruce Fitch, MLA  
Riverview, Electoral District 23  
567 Coverdale Rd  
Riverview, New Brunswick  
E1B 3K7

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The Honourable Cathy Rogers, (L) MLA  
Moncton South, Electoral District 20  
439 St. George Street  
Moncton, New Brunswick  
E1C 1X8

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The Honourable David Coon, (GP) MLA  
Fredericton South, Electoral District 40  
346 Queen Street  
Fredericton, New Brunswick  
E3B 1B2

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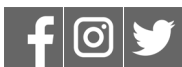
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The Honourable Dorothy Shephard, (PC) MLA  
Saint John Lancaster, Electoral District 33  
640 Manawagonish Road  
Saint John, New Brunswick  
E2M 3W5

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The Honourable Gerry Lowe, (L) MLA  
Saint John Harbour, Electoral District 32  
100 Prince Edward Street  
Saint John, New Brunswick  
E2L 4M5

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The Honourable Glen Savoie, (PC) MLA  
Saint John East, Electoral District 30  
1210 Loch Lomond Road  
Saint John, New Brunswick  
E2J 1Z6

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Moncton Centre, Electoral District 19  
234 Church Street  
Moncton, New Brunswick  
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Dieppe, Electoral District 17  
650 Champlain Street  
Suite 203, Dieppe, New Brunswick  
E1A 1P5

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We urge the Higgs Government to reconsider its decision and move forward with a provincial commitment to match the federal funding contribution because public transit is a social good and every \$1 invested in transit delivers \$4 in economic growth. It is critical to New Brunswick's economic recovery.

Please be advised that ATU Canada is ready to launch an active campaign to raise mass public awareness. People have a right to know that this government has made a short-sighted decision that will have long-term negative impacts – especially on the most vulnerable in society who rely on transit. Students, the elderly, low-income, and new Canadians all use public transit at higher than average levels. This Government must stop denying New Brunswickers the transportation service they expect and deserve.

I urge you to push this issue to the forefront within your government to ensure it gets immediate attention before it's too late.

Sincerely,

John Di Nino  
ATU Canada President  
416 938 0746  
[President@atucanada.ca](mailto:President@atucanada.ca)



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**Executive Board**

July 29, 2020

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Eric Tuck - Local 107  
Vice-President

Travis Oberg - Local 987  
Secretary to the Board

Paul Churchill - Local 1462  
Executive Member Eastern Canada

Jack Jackson - Local 1572  
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Andrew Cleary - Local 1189  
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Denyse Mitchell - Local 1724  
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Darcy Pederson - Local 615  
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Etobicoke, Ontario  
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The Honourable Stephen Horsman, (L) MLA  
Fredericton North Electoral District 41  
121 Gibson Street  
Fredericton, New Brunswick  
E3A 4E1

Dear Minister:

**Re: Call for New Brunswick Government to reconsider its short-sighted decision to refuse federal funding for transit operations**

The Amalgamated Transit Union is extremely disappointed with the Higgs Government's decision to refuse the federal funding offered to help transit operations as part of the Safe Restart Agreement. This is a short-sighted move by a Premier or provincial government where the transit systems are struggling and may not survive the financial impact of COVID-19.

New Brunswick Transit systems have been hit hard during the pandemic with extensive service reductions, layoffs, and devastating farebox revenue losses. As cities continue to reopen and more people return to work, we need to restore pre-pandemic service levels or thousands of tax paying citizens will be left at the curb waiting for a bus and unable to get to work.

Since the start of the pandemic, ATU Canada has been lobbying the Federal Government for emergency funding dedicated to transit operations, to help transit agencies recover from the financial crisis they face. The Federal Government came through with a \$19 billion funding announcement – of which \$1.8 billion was specifically set aside for transit operations – with a condition that the provinces must match the transit funding they receive.

Finally, some great news for transit! So why has your government turned down this funding?

This is a historic opportunity for the Province of New Brunswick to utilize federal funds so that cities can address the non-recoverable losses suffered under the pandemic without cutting the services that New Brunswickers rely on.



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The Honourable Trevor Holder, (PC) MLA  
Portland-Simonds, Electoral District 31  
229 Churchill Boulevard  
Saint John, New Brunswick  
E2K 3E2

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Saint John, 1 Market Square Suite N306  
Saint John, New Brunswick  
E2L 4Z6

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