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## **AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 113**

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October 30, 2020

**“VIA EMAIL ONLY”**

Hon. Doug Ford, M.P.P.  
Premier of Ontario  
Premier's Office - Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

As your government prepares to unveil this year's provincial budget, I am writing to you about the grave financial challenges facing the City of Toronto and Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) in 2021, and the importance of stable transit funding moving forward.

Toronto's public transit workers appreciated the \$400 million in emergency TTC funding through the first phase of the provincial-federal COVID-19 relief plan. As we look ahead, Toronto City Manager Chris Murray has said that Toronto will face a \$1.5 billion shortfall in its 2021 budget. This will no doubt put TTC operations at risk. Ensuring the City of Toronto has proper funding next year to keep transit operating during the pandemic must be a top priority of the Ontario government.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a spotlight on the TTC's broken funding model. It's another reminder that public transit needs more than fare box revenue. As we prepare for a recovery, Toronto needs a sustainable longer-term funding model for TTC operating costs.

If the TTC relied solely on the farebox, the system would quickly grind to a halt. Think of what would happen to all the essential, low-income workers who depend on the TTC to get to work at hospitals, nursing homes, grocery stores and pharmacies. Torontonians depend on them and they depend on transit.

Public transit workers, including the 12,000 Amalgamated Transit Union Local 113 members I'm proud to represent, work tirelessly and put themselves in harm's way to keep our communities moving. As of today, 127 TTC employees have tested positive for COVID-19.

Toronto's looming 2021 budget shortfalls will put the transit system of Canada's largest city at risk and jeopardize Ontario's pandemic recovery plan. Public transit workers and riders call on your government to do the right thing and provide stable funding to keep the TTC moving in 2021.

I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Yours sincerely,



Carlos Santos  
President, ATU Local 113

CS:rc

cc: Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance  
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation  
Hon. Kinga Surma, Associate Minister of Transportation  
Hon. Raymond Sung Joon Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility

Ms. Rima Berns-McGown, MPP for Beaches – East York  
Ms. Marit Stiles, MPP for Davenport  
Mr. Michael Coteau, MPP for Don Valley East  
Vincent Ke, MPP for Don Valley North  
Kathleen Wynne, MPP for Don Valley West  
Martin Robin, MPP for Eglinton – Lawrence  
Christine Hogarth, MPP for Etobicoke Lakeshore  
Tom Rakocevic, MPP for Humber River – Black Creek  
Bhutila Karpoche, MPP for Parkdale – High Park  
Aris Babikian, MPP for Scarborough – Agincourt  
Mitzie Hunter, MPP for Scarborough – Guildwood  
Vijay Thanigasalam, MPP for Scarborough – Rouge Park  
Christina Maria Mitas, MPP for Scarborough Centre  
Doly Begum, MPP for Scarborough Southwest  
Chris Glover, MPP for Spadina – Fort York  
Peter Tabuns, MPP for Toronto – Danforth  
Jill Andrew, MPP for Toronto – St. Paul's  
Suze Morrison, MPP for Toronto Centre  
Jessica Bell, MPP for University – Rosedale  
Stan Cho, MPP for Willowdale  
Roman Baber, MPP for York Centre  
Faisal Hassan, MPP for York South – Weston