

February 19, 2022

Jerry Dias
National President
Unifor

Steve Antil
Director of Operations
Pacific Western Transportation; c/o Whistler Transit Ltd.

Sent via email

RE: Whistler Transit Strike

Dear Mr. Dias and Mr. Antil,

The Whistler Chamber of Commerce represents nearly 700 businesses and 16,100 full time equivalent positions in the Whistler area.

We work closely to support these employees, workers and business owners who rely on public transit for mobility in their day-to-day lives. The necessity of the service that Whistler Transit provides has come into focus over the past 20 days of the transit strike. We recognize its essential importance to the livelihoods, safety and wellbeing of our community and the people who live, work and visit here.

We are hearing daily from our members and their employees of the increasing severity of the strike's impact.

A fatigued and challenged workforce is being worn down further as they attempt to find transportation options that are not sustainable financially or safely. As you would expect, many residents and workers have taken to walking along the highway and finding hazardous methods to get where they need to be. Others simply are not going to their jobs and staying home, or paying for taxis or rides that are well beyond their means. Businesses cannot operate with confidence that their employees will make it into work. Likewise, businesses are suffering loss of revenue, as people are not seeking businesses beyond a reduced range.

Overall, the health of businesses and workers themselves are at risk.

We recognize that the Whistler Chamber is not in a position to advise the parties involved in the negotiations. We do, however, respectfully urge that negotiations resume in good faith to find a resolution and resumption of local transit service in Whistler.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to a positive outcome. Our community depends on it.

Sincerely,



Melissa Pace
CEO
Whistler Chamber of Commerce

CC

Honorable Harry Bains, Minister of Labour
Honorable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure
Honorable Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture & Sports
Tom Jezersek, President & COO, Pacific Western Transportation
Gavin McGarrigle, Western Regional Director, UNIFOR
Greg Nicols, Vice President, Transit, Pacific Western Transportation
Michael Colborne, Chairman & CEO, Pacific Western Transportation
Erinn Pinkerton, President & CEO, B.C. Transit
Rob Ringma, Senior Manager, Government Relations, B.C. Transit
His Worship, Mayor Jack Crompton, Resort Municipality of Whistler
Hon. Jordan Sturdy, MLA West Vancouver - Sea to Sky
Barrett Fisher, President & CEO, Tourism Whistler
Virginia Cullen, CAO, Resort Municipality of Whistler