

Fast, Joyce

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Morgan Todd - High School Students Access to Transportation - CK 7300-1

Attachments: [REDACTED]

From: Web NoReply
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2020 1:30 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Morgan Todd - High School Students Access to Transportation - CK 7300-1

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 - 13:29

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Tuesday, December 08, 2020
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Morgan
Last Name Todd
Phone Number (306) [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] Avenue D S
City Saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code S7M [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Nutana Nursing Team
Subject High School Students' Access to Transportation
Meeting (if known) Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee
Comments
Hello,

Please find the attached letter addressed to Mr. Mayor, City Counsellors, and the Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee in regards to improving high school students' access to public transportation. I would appreciate if this letter would be passed along to the appropriate people.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Morgan

Morgan Todd
306-[REDACTED]
Attachments

[REDACTED]

The results of this submission may be viewed at:



December 7, 2020

Dear Mr. Mayor, City Counsellors, and Members of the Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee,

We are a group of 4th-year University of Saskatchewan nursing students currently placed at Nutana Collegiate for our community nursing practicum. We are writing this letter to call attention to the barrier to safe, affordable transportation for students to get to classes; identify the link between accessible transportation and completion of high school education; and propose policy changes to alleviate students' barriers to get to class.

First off, it is important to note that Canada has committed to many international obligations under the United Nations framework, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989 (Right to Education Project (REP), 2014). Article 26 of the UDHR outlines that everyone has the right to education, and Article 28(e) of the CRC recognizes the child's right to education and outlines that action must be taken to encourage regular attendance and reduce drop-out rates in school (REP, 2014).

In high school, attendance is the most crucial factor in influencing graduation rates (Trypuc & Heller, 2008). We completed a community assessment report for Nutana Collegiate that uncovered transportation to school as a significant challenge for students to attend classes. Nutana Collegiate is not considered a neighbourhood school, and the majority of students have to commute from all areas of Saskatoon. It is essential to recognize that transportation is challenging for student attendance on many levels, including, but not limited to, feelings of threat to personal safety and the high-costs associated with public transit.

To clarify, students have expressed concerns about using public transit in the city. Historically, students have reported negative and unsafe experiences while accessing city transit. Additionally, students have raised safety concerns related to the physical locations and environments of certain transit terminals.

Furthermore, the high cost of public transit is a significant barrier. The fee for a high school bus pass is \$59.00 monthly, which also requires that the student have access to student identification to prove their student status (Saskatoon Transit, n.d.). From January to April 2020, The University of Saskatchewan students' U-Pass transit program costs \$83.54, with a rate savings of \$152.46 compared to the costs high school students incur.

Graduation rates have been linked to increased employment opportunities and improved quality of life compared to students who do not graduate (Trypuc & Heller, 2008). In addition, graduation rates decrease the likelihood of both incarceration and receiving government income support (Trypuc & Heller, 2008). Furthermore, Howe (2011) outlined that Indigenous students who do not complete high school experience a 52% decrease in potential earnings, compared to Indigenous students who obtained their high school diploma. This equates to an average loss of \$372,577 over the person's lifetime.

Transportation is linked to school attendance, and school attendance is linked to graduation rates. We should implement low-barrier, upstream strategies to improve access to transportation. Therefore, increasing opportunities for all students.

The BC Teachers' Federation (2016) has outlined strategies proven to increase attendance. However, most methods require arranging transportation to pick up students. The other proven trend is providing bus passes to students. To increase access to transportation and to improve school attendance, we are proposing that Saskatoon Transit allow alternative methods to identify high school students (e.g. a verification form letter from the school), subsidize the cost of accessing a monthly pass to align with university student rates, and consider a program to provide free monthly transit to students in need in collaboration with school staff.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter addressing the challenges regarding transportation and its impact on students in our city, especially students attending Nutana Collegiate. Addressing social determinants of health, like increasing access to education, are central to community health nursing. If you are interested in working with nursing students to help address this inequity, please contact Tye Buettner, clinical instructor with the College of Nursing, at [REDACTED] or by telephone at 306-[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

The Nutana Nursing Team

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Tye Buettner, RN, Clinical Instructor	Emily Allin, 4 th -year Nursing Student	Shawna Funk, 4 th -year Nursing Student	Khushbu Kachhadia, 4 th -year Nursing Student
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Vanessa Ralston, 4 th -year Nursing Student	Chelsea Rose, 4 th -year Nursing Student	Heather Sader, 4 th -year Nursing Student	Morgan Todd, 4 th -year Nursing Student

References

- BC Teachers' Federation. (2016). *Chapter 5: Poverty and school attendance: Barriers and possible solutions* [PDF]. <https://www.bctf.ca/povertyresearch.aspx>
- Howe, E. (2011). *Bridging the Aboriginal education gap in Saskatchewan* [PDF]. <https://gdins.org/me/uploads/2013/11/GDI.HoweReport.2011.pdf>
- Right to Education Project. (2014). *International instruments* [PDF]. https://www.right-to-education.org/sites/right-to-education.org/files/resource_attachments/RTE_International_Instruments_Right_to_Education_2014.pdf
- Saskatoon Transit. (n.d.). *High school students*. <https://transit.saskatoon.ca/fares-passes/fares-passes/student>
- Trypuc, B., & Heller, A. (2008). *Breaking the cycle of failure: A funder's primer in understanding Canada's school drop-out epidemic* [PDF]. Charity Intelligence Canada. https://www.charityintelligence.ca/images/Ci_EducationReport_08.pdf