

From: Mary Jean Belanger

Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 7:37 PM

To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Subsidized Transit Program Update from the Community and Protective Services Committee

Hi, I give you permission to add my comments for consideration for this matter. Disabled people in Ontario , and all across Canada for that matter face financial barriers to participating and enjoying life.

Most disabled people in Ontario can't afford the necessities of life with the pittance ODSP gives them to survive on. The federal govt. as well, has so far never helped the disabled with even one penny. This leaves them excluded from anything that costs money. They can't even afford a bus pass to get out of their homes (if they are lucky enough to even have a home). Without a FREE bus pass they cant even get around to enjoy anything that could be free. They have to beg for rides to go to the food banks, the ministry office, the doctors office, dental office, a friends place, or any other place that any other human being would use a bus for.. The govt.'s need to stop ignoring the reality of a disabled person's life in Ontario, and start stepping up . A free bus pass would give disabled people just a little bit of dignity and freedom, that every other able bodied human being takes for granted. A free bus pass will play a HUGE part in a disabled persons morale. Thank you for considering my comments.

Mary-Jean Belanger