

Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee, thank you for your consideration of this very important issue and for allowing the community to provide feedback on the Proposed Public Transit Subsidy Program. My name is Jim Hewett and I am a member of the Board for Community Living London, the Chair of the Advocacy Committee and a family member of an adult with a developmental disability. *Mention people in the Com. for Dir / Board / NVA / People supported*
I have been involved in many advocacy efforts to City Council for well over a decade for the creation of a public transit subsidy program that is geared to each person's ability to pay *including* ~~on behalf of my son and~~ all people who live on a fixed income and do not have access to affordable public transportation.

Although Community Living London's primary mandate is the provision of supports and services for people with developmental disabilities and their families, access to affordable transportation for all Londoners is critical to ensure that all people have the opportunity to engage in their community. This improves quality of life and ensures a vibrant and diverse City.

Access to affordable transportation will help eliminate isolation and increase opportunities for Londoners to engage in meaningful ways within their community.

As a member of the Community Task Group that participated with the City in the development of this proposed model, I believe it meets the intention of the group based on the parameters as determined by City Administration.

It was made clear that any new subsidy model would be implemented utilizing the existing public transit subsidy for people registered through CNIB and for seniors. Based on this, the group recommended a fair and equitable subsidy program that focused on a person's ability to pay, rather than based on disability or age.

Our goal is not to take anything away from a person, or a group of people that is needed, but it is critical to ensure that the limited funding allocated to public transit subsidy is offered in an equitable manner that will assist those most in need in our community.

- if they choose to volunteer at a local child care centre for example that is not within walking distance.

These are activities that you and I take for granted, but these choices are faced by people who live in poverty on a daily basis which restricts their ability to enjoy the benefits, or contribute as easily to the vibrancy of the city.

Please, do not delay access to affordable public transportation for Londoners who live below the LICO.

The need for a new Public Transit Subsidy Program in London has clearly been established.

This new program must provide access to affordable public transportation based on a person's income and ability to pay, rather than their disability or age.

To start, the implementation of the new program can be based on utilization of existing funding allocated for transportation subsidy.