

Attention: Lauren Kucera

Dear Ms. Kucera:

I am writing to you today to express my concern and dismay at the LTC's proposal to eliminate the CNIB BUS PASS for blind and visually impaired passengers.

While I understand it costs money to provide this service, I am not sure you or the others involved in this decision understand how vital this service is to those who use it.

I had 20/20 vision until 2005 when a life threatening illness robbed me of 90% of my vision. I had a good job and a nice car. Unfortunately, when the government handed me a white cane, they took away my license and along with it a great deal of my independence. I lost my job and had to go on disability. I make less than 1/3 of what I used to.

After months of only going places when I could find a free ride, someone told me about the bus pass.

It has since become a vital service in my life and I depend on it a great deal. I know I am not alone.

I take the bus to do all my errands that are not walkable and get anywhere I need to go, including several volunteer positions. With the small amount of money the government allots me each month, I am not in a position to pay for bus pass and having to do so will place undue hardship on me as well as many others in similar circumstances.

I will no longer be able to get to my volunteer positions and even chores as simple as grocery shopping will become all but impossible to do.

As I said, I am not in a position to pay for a pass, nor are many others. This move will serve no purpose as I know it will not turn me into a paying customer, but rather into a pedestrian where possible and a shut in where it is not.

I cannot believe this is even under consideration especially while at the same time they are increasing the age of free rides to include children up to the age of 12 and the possibility of a reduced pass for secondary students.

I guess we know at whose expense those programs will be funded.

CNIB clients will be life long riders regardless of how poorly the service is.

Children and teens grow up, get cars and stop riding the bus.

I respectfully ask you to reconsider this idea and think about how it will negatively affect so many.

Thank you.

Denise Briand

CNIB client and LTC passenger