

RE: REQUEST SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

We have some exciting news to share with you -- Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, has committed to establishing a federal active transportation strategy for cycling, walking, and active school travel.

A public announcement is expected before mid-year.

On request from the Minister's office, we have submitted a joint letter of interest on behalf of Canada Bikes, the National Active & Safe Routes to School Working Group, and Canada Walks (Green Communities Canada). This powerful new alliance is offering to work with the government to develop a National Active Transportation strategy and a framework for implementation. This process will include extensive consultation and collaboration with active transportation champions such as yourself Canada-wide.

At this point, as we move toward an agreement and a formal definition of scope and process, the Minister's office has asked us to indicate the level of support for a strategy. The range of support to date (see below) is broad, including local, regional, and national organizations with a variety of interests and concerns. These include members of Canada Bikes (to be added), members of the National Active & Safe Routes to School Working Group, supporters of the national action strategy for walking, and other organizations that support our efforts to promote healthy, sustainable transportation options for all Canadians.

We would like you to add your support, to show the Canadian government that an AT strategy is critically needed and will benefit all Canadians. With your permission, we will use your organization's name privately with the Minister to convey support in principle. Time is tight: we meet with senior officials in the Minister's office on 6 April, and we would like to share the list of supporters in advance of that meeting.

We don't need a letter on official letterhead at this time; a simple email stating your support and (we hope) interest in participating in the process will suffice. Please include the following contact information: name of organization, address, contact person, and phone and/or email address.

We'll keep you in the loop as the strategy progresses, and let you know how you can participate moving forward.

We are very excited and optimistic. After nearly two decades pursuing the cause of active transportation in this country, we see real potential for progress in policy, action,

and investment to (re)establish a culture of walking and cycling for all Canadians, including our under-active youth. Now is the time to seize this opportunity and take active transportation to the next level.

We are happy to answer any questions.

Thanks

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Supporters to date (alphabetical)

1. Association for Commuter Transportation of Canada (ACT Canada)
2. BC Recreation and Parks Association (WalkBC, BEAT)
3. Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST) (Vancouver)
4. Bike Brampton
5. Bike Calgary
6. Bike Nova Scotia
7. Bike Peterborough
8. Bike Toronto
9. Bike Winnipeg
10. British Columbia Cycling Coalition
11. Bowen Island Municipality, BC
12. Ecology Ottawa
13. Envirocentre (Ottawa)
14. Canada Bikes
15. Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
16. Canadian Automobile Association (National)

17. Canadian Cancer Society
18. Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
19. Citizens 4 Active Transportation (St. Thomas, ON)
20. Citizens for Safe Cycling (Ottawa)
21. Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury
22. Diabetes Canada
23. Ecology Action Centre (Halifax, NS)
24. EcoSuperior (Thunder Bay, ON)
25. Environment Network (Collingwood, ON)
26. Green Action Centre (Manitoba)
27. Green Venture (Hamilton)
28. Green Communities Canada
29. GreenUP (Peterborough, ON)
30. Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit
31. Happy City St. John's
32. HASTe BC
33. Healthy Transportation Coalition (National Capital Region)
34. Heart and Stroke Foundation
35. HUB Cycling - Vancouver
36. Montreal Cycle Coalition Velo Montreal
37. Montreal Public Health Department
38. Montreal Urban Ecology Centre
39. North Okanagan Coalition for Active Transportation
40. Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition
41. Ottawa Safety Council
42. Ottawa Student Transportation Authority
43. Paths for People - Edmonton
44. Pelham Active Transportation Committee
45. Peterborough Bicycle Advisory Committee
46. Physical & Health Education Canada (PHE Canada)
47. Piétons Québec
48. Portage la Prairie Active Transportation Committee
49. Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon
50. REEP Green Solutions (Waterloo Region)
51. Richmond Fitness and Wellness Association (Walk Richmond)
52. Saskatchewan in Motion
53. Saskatoon Cycles
54. SHAPE Alberta
55. Share the Road Cycling Coalition - Ontario
56. Streets for Everyone (Vancouver)
57. Sustainable Calgary
58. The Council on Aging Ottawa
59. Toronto Centre for Active Transportation
60. Toronto Environmental Alliance
61. Traffic Injury Research Foundation
62. Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities
63. Urban Poling, Inc.

64. Vélo Québec
65. Victoria Transport Policy Institute
66. Walk Edmonton
67. Walk 'n' Roll Halifax
68. WalkON Victoria
69. Walk21 (international)
70. Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
71. Whitehorse Walks