

April 12th, 2013

Mrs. Denise T. Brown
Ward 11 Councillor
City of London
52 Craig Street
London, Ontario N6C 1E8

Dear Councillor Brown,

Youth Create Healthy Communities would like to request delegation status at your Community and Protective Services Committee meeting on Monday May 6th, 2013. We are advocating on behalf of our peers to secure a student bus pass subsidized by the City of London.

Youth Create Healthy Communities (YCHC) is a youth advocacy group from the Middlesex-London Health Unit. Our group advocates for health and social issues that impact the lives of youth. We are currently engaged in an initiative which would make public transportation more accessible to high school students. Affordable bus transportation would allow us to travel to and from work, school and other events.

Accessibility is an issue for youth in our city as 14.6% of Children and Youth in London live in low income (City of London, Social Research and Planning Unit, 2011). Public Health Nurses in the schools see students constant struggle between buying food or bus tickets to attend school. Education is a social determinant of health which has a great impact on the success of our future. Please see the corresponding letter from a local student as she shares her story with Councillor Swan.

Throughout our research we have discovered London is one of the only cities in Southern Ontario not offering monthly student bus passes. Cities such as Whitby, Oshawa, Hamilton and Windsor, who are similar in population size to London, all offer a student pass.

YCHC has been endorsed by the Middlesex-London Board of Health to continue our advocacy efforts with City Council. We would like the opportunity to share our findings with you in hope of achieving a subsidized Student Bus Pass.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter,

Sincerely,

Youth Create Healthy Communities