



Jenna Peace
Durham College Student's Inc.
2000 Simcoe St. N.
Oshawa, ON, L1G 0C5

Bill Holmes
General Manager
Durham Region Transit

July 31, 2020

Dear Mr. Holmes,

I appreciate your response and the steps that DRT has taken early on to support students. I acknowledge that the discounted rate is available for students under 19, however, it is the case that over 60 percent of students at Durham College (DC) are over the age of 19. The solutions you have presented does not support the majority of our students.

Durham College students are diverse, and many are in retraining programs to meet the needs of the Durham Regional Economy. We understand and acknowledge why DC needed to suspend the Durham Region U-Pass program for the upcoming fall semester as a result of the majority of courses and programming being delivered online at Durham College. However, our students work in many essential service fields, and many have chosen to further their training in those fields at our post-secondary institutions. Our students are vital for the economic recovery and long term sustainability of the Durham Region, not having a reduced transit option available to those students will hurt the Durham Region's economic recovery.

Durham Region has acknowledged the importance of our post-secondary students in the Durham Region Strategic Plan Vision. Section 3.2 vision "*Durham Region will leverage these community attributes to forge partnerships that ignite economic prosperity, build social capital, and address the research and innovation needs of an increasingly digital economy.*"

A reduced pass option to all students should be seen as a social investment for the Durham Region, to allow students to participate in the Durham Regional workforce fully.

We ask you to please consider a low-cost option for all full-time students in the region who heavily relied on the access of a U-Pass when selecting their post-secondary education institutes as outlined in my previous letter.

Again, Durham College Students Inc. thanks you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jenna Peace

Executive Chairperson
Durham College Students Inc.

Cc: President of Durham College, Don Lovisa
President of Ontario Tech Student Union, Tiffany Best
Durham Regional Council
Chief Administrative Officer, Elaine Baxter-Trahair