



March 11, 2022

Greg J. Nichols
Vice President, Transit, PW Transit

Jerry Dias
National President, UNIFOR

Re: Squamish Transit Strike

Dear Mr Nichols and Mr Dias,

Further to our previous correspondence dated February 23 2022, the Squamish Chamber of Commerce is once again writing to encourage you to resume negotiations in order to find a resolution and enable the return of public transit to the community of Squamish.

For nearly six weeks, there has been no public transit in Squamish. With a young population, many workers are reliant on public transit to get to work. Workers struggling with the high cost of living in Squamish are now faced with the option of up to a daily \$50 taxi charge or walking along roadways and finding hazardous methods to get where they need to be. Businesses already short staffed cannot be sure that their staff will be able to make it into work.

Squamish is a community of small businesses. Business owners and their employees have worked hard to get through the pandemic. Their strength and resilience over the last two years cannot be underestimated. It is time for our community of small businesses to recover. Instead, the lack of public transit is disproportionately affecting the same businesses and employees. The social and economic strain on our community cannot be understated.

On behalf of the Squamish Chamber's membership – representing hundreds of businesses – we implore you to work with the appointed mediator, find a resolution and enable the return of Squamish's public transit service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Annabel Majendie
President, Squamish Chamber of Commerce

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



CC:

Honorable Harry Bains, Minister of Labour

Honorable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure

Her Worship, Mayor Karen Elliot, District of Squamish

Hon. Jordan Sturdy, MLA West Vancouver - Sea to Sky

Rob Ringma, Senior Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit

Erinn Pinkerton, President & CEO, BC Transit Ltd

Tom Jezersek, President & COO, Pacific Western Transportation

Michael Colborne, Chairman & CEO, Pacific Western Transportation

Gavin McGarrigle, Western Regional Director, UNIFOR

Kirby Brown, Chair, Tourism Squamish

Lesley Weeks, Executive Director, Tourism Squamish

Adrian Bluchut, President, Downtown Squamish BIA

Kerry Neil, Executive Director, Downtown Squamish BIA