Date

Greg J. Nichols

Vice President, Transit, PW Transit

Gavin McGarrigle

Western Regional Director, UNIFOR

**Re: Sea to Sky Transit Strike**

Dear Mr Nichols and Mr McGarrigle,

I’m writing to you as the owner/operator of <business name>, based in Squamish. Since January 29, 2022, bus drivers in the Sea to Sky region – Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton – have been on strike, which has caused significant negative impacts on employees, business owners and the community as a whole.

<Business name> employs <add number> staff, many of whom rely on public transit to get to work and in their day-to-day lives. Workers already struggling with the high cost of living in Squamish are now faced with the choice of a daily taxi charge, walking along roadways without sidewalks or finding potentially hazardous methods to get where they need to be. My business is already impacted by labour challenges, and now we cannot be sure that staff will make it into work. <add any real life examples or specific reasons for needing transit back>

The last two years have brought unprecedented challenges to small businesses. At a time when we should be focusing on recovery, we are instead facing increased social and economic strain because of no public transit. Crucially, the lack of public transit is disproportionately affecting the same businesses and employees who faced significant pressures during the pandemic.

On behalf of <business name>, we encourage you to resume negotiations between PW Transit and UNIFOR to find a resolution and enable the return of public transit to the Squamish community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Signature*

Name

Business / Organization

 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

Jerry Dias, National President, UNIFOR

Louise Walker, Executive Director, Squamish Chamber of Commerce