Petition
Fund and Expand Local
and Inter-City Transit

To: All candidates and elected representatives in British Columbia:

We the undersigned ask you to become strong public advocates for rapid expansion of public funding for local and inter-city transit services to again make BC a climate leader.

A universally recognized effective climate strategy is to rapidly expand public transit. Beyond reducing emissions it can also reduce road use, congestion, pollution and public highway maintenance costs.

The Clean BC target is to reduce private vehicle trips (and emissions) by 25% but it is a completely empty promise without any significant strategy to reach it. The funding and scale up of public transit so far is too little, too late.

A major missing piece in transit expansion is the inter-city component. When people require a vehicle to travel between communities, they are far more likely to use their private vehicles locally as well. Moreover many people who cannot drive or afford their own vehicle become second class citizens who face huge barriers to visit family, or to travel for medical needs or even seek employment.

Private inter-city bus services offer inconvenient, expensive and often unreliable services.
- many routes do not have enough customers to be profitable
- for-profit services cannot offer the frequency needed to make transit a convenient option.
- for-profit services frequently cancel runs with little notice because they will not hire enough drivers or service people to provide capacity and dependability.

Rapid expansion of transit involves large investment, however it is far less costly than the alternative: spending billions more on constant roadway expansion and maintenance. Not to mention the climate cost or steadily growing emissions.

For all these reasons we ask that you move quickly and decisively to advocate and vote for greatly expanding and funding public transit and creating a public BC-wide, inter-city coach system as both a climate and affordability measure.

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DATE AND LOCATION OF SIGNING: _____