



Carbon Tax Without Real Transit Solutions Will Only Hurt South Fraser Residents and Students

Surrey, BC — Implementing a carbon tax for British Columbia without creating real alternatives to the private automobile will only hurt people in regions poorly-served by transit. The Kwantlen Student Association (KSA) is concerned that the provincial government's recently-announced carbon tax will not be effective in promoting sustainable transportation alternatives in the South Fraser area, simply because public transit is not a viable option for most people.

"We know that just 16% of Kwantlen University College students take public transit on a regular basis," said KSA Chairperson Laura Anderson. "It's easy to see why this is the case: it can take two hours to travel from the Langley campus to the Richmond campus."

Although the provincial government has announced a 'Provincial Transit Plan' that includes significant transit improvements in the South Fraser area, most of these improvements are many years from completion. In contrast, the provincial government's carbon tax is set to take effect on July 1, 2008. In the meantime, the KSA fears that the carbon tax will have little to no effect in promoting sustainable transportation choices in the South Fraser area.

"The provincial government needs to act – this year – to make public transit options viable for Richmond, Delta, Surrey, and Langley residents," said Anderson. The KSA is acting by preparing for a Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) for Kwantlen students. The KSA's U-Pass Plan includes proposals to significantly improve the quality of the public transit system across the South Fraser region.

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The Kwantlen University College Student Association represents over 17,000 students enrolled at the four Greater Vancouver campuses of Kwantlen University College.

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