



Representing our members from coast to coast in solidarity.
One Voice. One Canada. One ATU!

Executive Board

March 27, 2020

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The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation

The Honourable Christine Elliot, Minister of Health

The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs

Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer

Mr. Peter Donnelly, President & CEO, Public Health Ontario

Legislative Building

Queen's Park

Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier, Ministers, and Healthcare Professionals:

Re: COVID-19 - Public Transit Closure – Windsor, Ontario

People in positions of power should not use COVID-19 to further their agenda or settle a score. The City of Windsor Mayor, Drew Dilkens may have an issue with the push back he received from the ATU over the use of non-transit workers to clean buses - but the Union was merely protecting its members' rights. This is an anti-union reprisal at the worst possible time. The Mayor broke his oath of office, to continue delivering public services to its taxpayers. ATU transit workers have continued work above and beyond and around the clock to disinfect transit buses and provide the transit service their community desperately needs – despite not having been provided with personal protective equipment. Windsor transit workers are demanding the immediate reinstatement of service.

An abrupt decision by the Mayor to shut down Transit Windsor, without consultation and with only 30 minutes advance notice – leaving thousands of people who rely on public transit stranded, including critical workers in essential services, vulnerable passengers, and public transit employees. Public Transit should always be considered an essential service not only in a time of crisis – but daily.



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The Mayor has acted against the advice of the Chief Health Officers for the Province and Country – and he is encouraging people to pitch in by helping transit-reliant neighbours with rides and errands. This is clearly against the social distancing being urged by all levels of government.

While we are all feeling the effects of COVID-19, politicians should always be held accountable to act in the best interest of the people they serve – in this case, those who rely on transit as a means of transportation and public transit workers who have been working around the clock and have a right to work as per their collective agreement.

Sincerely,

John Di Nino
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