

**Bridle, Barb**

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**From:** Tobin, Paul  
**Sent:** November 4, 2008 3:56 PM  
**To:** shirleycronin@yahoo.com  
**Cc:** Bridle, Barb; Gordon, Don; fscarpitti@markham.ca

**Attachments:** Picture (Metafile)

This e-mail is in response to your letter of October 9th to Mayor Scarpitti in Markham.

As you correctly state in your letter, the Region has undertaken a 1 year pilot project to provide a 15% discount on YRT fare media for preselected agencies working with the homeless. We were also directed by Council on October 23rd, to investigate and report back on what other GTA transit systems are providing in discounted fare media for residents on income support programs such as ODSP. This report is scheduled to go to Transit Committee and Council in December.

You may wish to attend on December 11th to make a deputation at Transit Committee. If so, you can contact Mrs. Barbara Bridle in the Region Clerks office at 905-895-1231 extension 1303.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me at the number below.

Paul Tobin, CGA  
Manager - Finance and Administration

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**OUR MISSION:**

To provide quality public transit services which support the economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and health of the Regional community.

## MUST

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OCT - 9 2008

The Mayor  
Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Road  
Markham  
Ontario  
L3R 9W3

October 9, 2008

Dear Mr. Scarpitti,

In our group, Markham Unionville Support Team (MUST), you are known as someone who serves the citizens of Markham, especially those citizens, who are intellectually challenged. We started twelve years ago and you were there to celebrate with us when we received a cheque for \$105,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. We again need your assistance to put forth our request to the York Region Transit Commission, to obtain a reduced fare for individuals with intellectually challenges, who use the transit system.

I know that The Advocate Group from Community Living York South, (CLYS) is also working towards this goal and MUST would like to join forces to support this worthy cause. As you know individuals that receive the Ontario Disability Support Pension (ODSP) live from a budget that is considered well below the poverty line. There are also some individuals who have managed to obtain jobs and do not receive ODSP, but are intellectually challenged. These individuals must also be included.

In the Markham Economist & Son dated Thursday, September 25, 2008, there was an article on page fourteen granting a fifteen percent discount on both the VIVA and YRT transit systems, to certain agencies. What a wonderful start. This system of granting certain agencies a discount seems easily managed, as the individuals would purchase the tickets through the various agencies listed. This too could apply to the individuals served by CLYS.

We, as a group, did some research and Go Transit offers a Party Ticket which allows the person accompanying anyone with a disability to ride free. This model, although worthy, makes some assumptions that are outdated. It assumes that the person with the disability always needs an attendant. Clearly this is not always the case. However, Durham Region offers an excellent transit support to its citizens with special needs.

Durham Region, with its major cities of Pickering, Whitby, Ajax and Oshawa, offers excellent support for its citizens with intellectually challenges. They issue a monthly Access Pass to individuals who receive ODSP or those who can provide them with proof of a disability income tax exemption. The monthly pass which sells for ninety six dollars (\$96) is sold for thirty eight dollars (\$38) to Access Pass holders. This represents quite a savings for citizens served by CLYS. To start this initiative should be quite simple as long as there is the political will.

Mr. Scarpitti, York Region is known for its inclusiveness and is one of the fastest growing municipalities. Let us do the right thing and grant a discount on the York Region Transit System to individuals with intellectually challenges. The current monthly transit cost of (\$96), to one of our most vulnerable groups of citizens in this region, has had a great impact on how well they eat and live. Let us at least match Durham Region on this issue.

Again, as a group, we thank you for your continued support of people with intellectual challenges and we hope you will be successful in presenting this cause to the regional transit department. I will be contacting your office within ten business days to verify that you have received this request for your help in putting forth this worthy cause.

Yours sincerely,



Shirley Cronin, Chair  
Markham Unionville Support team

cc Debbie Lewis, Acting Executive Director  
Community Living York South

*MUST is a group of parents dedicated to  
forming a caring and inclusive community around their individual  
sons or daughters with a disability*