



July 26, 2016

Hon. Michelle Stilwell  
Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation  
Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC

Dear Minister Stilwell:

**Re: Bus Pass for Persons with Disabilities**

Thank you for your May 3rd response to BC FamilyNet's letter regarding changes to disability rates and transportation allowances for people living with disabilities.

Since that time your government has announced that the \$45 annual administration fee will no longer be charged to those who use the bus pass. It is our hope that this gesture indicates a true understanding on the part of government of the hardships faced by many people who live with disabilities, and an intention to take further action.

However, the fact remains that people dependent on a bus pass are receiving after nine years with no increase, a raise of only \$25 per month at a time when food and housing costs are rapidly escalating. And many of these folks need the pass to travel to their minimum wage jobs in the community – which is a major goal of your Ministry.

This is patently unfair. The people who are not dependent on a bus pass have other means of transportation, such as vehicles provided by their day or evening programs and funded by non-profit societies, or parents and siblings willing and able to drive them to events. But many people do not have these supports and may feel penalized for needing a pass.

We urge you once again to ensure that all people with disabilities receive a minimum increase of \$77 in the short term followed by a long term plan to increase assistance.

Sincerely,

Linda Derkach, President  
BC FamilyNet Society