

Redman, Crystal SDSI:EX

From: Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 7:08 PM
To: Andersen, Torunn SDSI:EX; Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX
Cc: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Emailing: Transportation Allowance for Persons with Disabilities - 66.docx, Transportation Allowance for Persons with Disabilities - 52.docx

Thanks Torunn. Sheila wants a BN to support the analysis and provide some context. And we need this early next week.

Martha, can you chat with Rob or Linda to draft something up and we can review/include financial impacts.
Thanks LEN

-----Original Message-----

From: Andersen, Torunn SDSI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 12:10 PM
To: Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX
Cc: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Emailing: Transportation Allowance for Persons with Disabilities - 66.docx, Transportation Allowance for Persons with Disabilities - 52.docx

Hi

Based on the assumptions listed, the logic for 2017 makes sense (using their numbers, I get within s.13, probably rounding).

s.13,s.17

Only change for 2018 in their calculation is removal of savings the first three months of the year.

s.13,s.17

NR

Torunn

-----Original Message-----

From: Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 8:40 AM
To: Andersen, Torunn SDSI:EX
Cc: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Subject: FW: Emailing: Transportation Allowance for Persons with Disabilities - 66.docx, Transportation Allowance for Persons with Disabilities - 52.docx

Hi Torunn, would you mind looking at this for Len?

Thanks,
Keith

-----Original Message-----

From: Dawes, Len SDSI:EX

Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 8:52 PM

To: Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX

Cc: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX

Subject: FW: Emailing: Transportation Allowance for Persons with Disabilities - 66.docx, Transportation Allowance for Persons with Disabilities - 52.docx

Hi Keith,

Can you or your staff check the math for reasonableness/logic. Thanks Len

-----Original Message-----

From: Taylor, Sheila A SDSI:EX

Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 9:44 AM

To: Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX

Subject: FW: Emailing: Transportation Allowance for Persons with Disabilities - 66.docx, Transportation Allowance for Persons with Disabilities - 52.docx

Let me know if you have any concerns with this.

-----Original Message-----

From: Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX

Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 6:30 PM

To: Taylor, Sheila A SDSI:EX

Subject: Fw: Emailing: Transportation Allowance for Persons with Disabilities - 66.docx, Transportation Allowance for Persons with Disabilities - 52.docx

From: Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX

Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 5:52 PM

To: Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX

Subject: Emailing: Transportation Allowance for Persons with Disabilities - 66.docx, Transportation Allowance for Persons with Disabilities - 52.docx

Sorry, I realized on the way home that I didn't adjust from fiscal to calendar year very well, so the 100,000 clients is for 16/17. The correct number of clients for 2017 is 104,000. ^{s.13}

^{s.13}

I have corrected the above two documents.

Rob

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Transportation Allowance for Persons with Disabilities - 66.docx Transportation Allowance for Persons with Disabilities - 52.docx

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

Redman, Crystal SDSI:EX

From: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:23 PM
To: Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Cc: Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Questions from TBS

Sounds good. Thank you

From: Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:22 PM
To: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Cc: Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX
Subject: Re: Questions from TBS

s.12

On Jan 15, 2016, at 1:13 PM, Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX <Martha.Thomas@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Thanks Len. The question came from the sub -s.12,s.13

s.12,s.13

s.12,s.13 . Keith can you confirm that please?

s.12,s.13

MT

From: Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:07 PM
To: Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Questions from TBS

Thanks all. See below for my suggested response

From: Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 11:52 AM
To: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Questions from TBS

s.12,s.17

From: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 11:49 AM
To: Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Questions from TBS
Importance: High

Here is what I have so far from discussions with Keith:

Page 005

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12,s.17,s.13

Redman, Crystal SDSI:EX

From: Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:46 PM
To: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Cc: Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Subject: Re: Start date for Transportation Allowance

I talked to Raymond about this yesterday and he felt system changes for a rate increase should be fairly straightforward since we still use MIS. [s.13](#)

[s.13](#)

On Jan 15, 2016, at 1:05 PM, Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX <Martha.Thomas@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

I am trying to get ahold of Raymond. I want to make sure we actually need system adjustments. I will see if Rob is around. He might now.

From: Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:03 PM
To: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Cc: Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX
Subject: Re: Start date for Transportation Allowance

[s.13](#)

From: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 12:59 PM
To: Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Cc: Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX; Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Start date for Transportation Allowance

Will do.

Martha

From: Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 12:57 PM
To: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Cc: Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX; Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Start date for Transportation Allowance

Please keep discussions at ED level and ensure they are in confidence. We do not want this leaked out in advance of potential budget announcement

From: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 12:56 PM
To: Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Cc: Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX; Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Start date for Transportation Allowance

My challenge is that [s.13](#)

[s.13](#) I just need to find out if systems updates will be necessary and how long it will take to update the procedures.

MT

From: Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 12:55 PM
To: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX

Cc: Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX; Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX

Subject: RE: Start date for Transportation Allowance

Please hold off those discussions until budget day. This is confidential until then

From: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX

Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 12:53 PM

To: Dawes, Len SDSI:EX

Cc: Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX; Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX

Subject: Start date for Transportation Allowance

I need to start to discuss **is.13**

. That means I need

to start engaging some more people like systems and program areas.

I will start with Shelly Craigie.

Martha Okot Thomas, CPA, CA

Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation

778-676-3739

TOP UNIT



Rethink Reduce Reuse Repair Recycle



Redman, Crystal SDSI:EX

From: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 2:36 PM
To: Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX; Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX
Cc: Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Deadline

We just finished having a conversation about [s.12,s.13](#)

[s.12,s.13](#)

We will do our best to update the costing for you [s.12,s.13](#)

From: Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 2:03 PM
To: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Deadline
Importance: High

I don't follow the financial impact on total 2016/17 DA rate increases if [s.13,s.12](#)
[s.13,s.12](#) ASAP please.

Cheers,
C.

~~~~~  
**Craig Thomson**  
Strategic Advisor, Treasury Board Staff  
desk: 250.356.5911  
mobile: 250.580.7438

---

**From:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 1:53 PM  
**To:** Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX  
**Cc:** Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Deadline

1. As I understand it, [s.13,s.17,s.12](#)  
[s.13,s.17,s.12](#)
2. Yes
3. We would like to see [s.13,s.1](#) I just talked with Rob Byers about systems changes [s.12,s.13](#)  
[s.13,s.12](#)
4. No – the low income senior who is PWD will be given the new rates.

**From:** Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 1:47 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Deadline  
**Importance:** High

So to summarize ...

s.12,s.13,s.17

Cheers,  
C.

~~~~~  
Craig Thomson
Strategic Advisor, Treasury Board Staff
desk: 250.356.5911
mobile: 250.580.7438

From: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:32 PM
To: Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX
Cc: Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Deadline

1. Low Income Seniors Bus pass- For the bus pass most of the clients are the Senior anyway – so we will not see much savings as a result of implementing a transportation allowance.
2. The note says that the costs are annual costs but if we implement in 16/17 we would need to prorate. We have

s.13,s.12

Keep in mind that we pay the STS out in Sept/Oct for the next calendar year so the full amount would be saved and the costs would only be for three months. As for the bus pass, we would still pay the monthly amount until January and then the increased rates would be simply transfer from bus pass to monthly allowance (change of payee essentially).

From: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:15 PM
To: Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX
Cc: Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Deadline
Importance: High

Here is what I have. Still working on the Seniors and Implementation date:

s.12,s.13,s.17

From: Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 12:17 PM
To: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Subject: Deadline
Importance: High

Martha, I have a 2PM deadline to make any necessary revisions to my budget note ... please expedite the answer to questions as discussed!

Many thanks.

Cheers,

C.

~~~~~

**Craig Thomson**  
Strategic Advisor, Treasury Board Staff  
desk: 250.356.5911  
mobile: 250.580.7438



# **MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION**

## **INFORMATION NOTE**

**DATE:** December 23, 2015

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Minister Michelle Stilwell

**ISSUE:** Persons With Disability Rates and Transportation Allowances

### **BACKGROUND:**

Assistance rates in British Columbia (B.C.) reflect individual and family needs including nutrition, shelter and clothing. In recognition that Persons With Disabilities (PWD) face more barriers to employment their rates are higher. Advocates typically criticize the adequacy of B.C.'s assistance rates. They believe the rates do not meet a person's long-term basic needs and often refer to a study ranking BC fifth in the country for PWD rates (appendix 1).

One of the reasons that BC's PWD rate appears to be lower is due to some of the supplementary programs our clients receive which are not included the rate calculations. In particular, the ministry currently has two basic transportation supplements for PWD clients – an annual bus pass and the Special Transportation Subsidy (STS). These supplements aren't generally captured in cross-jurisdictional rate comparisons because they are not available to all PWD clients.

Annual bus passes are provided to PWD clients where public transit is available. Cost to the client is \$45 annually for the annual pass. The ministry pays the subsidized costs monthly to BC Transit and Translink for an equivalent benefit of \$52/month. An annual application/renewal process is used to confirm eligibility, collect the \$45 payment, and mail passes to clients.

The STS is provided to PWDs who reside in an area where public transit is available, but are unable to use public transit due to their disability. The STS rate is \$790/year, \$66/month (equivalent to the highest bus pass subsidy in the province), and is paid directly to clients in a lump sum each April (prorated if required). STS costs have been steadily increasing by over \$1 million each fiscal year. In total, the ministry pays an additional \$34 million in benefits to PWD clients annually.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Currently transportation assistance provided to clients is inequitable because almost half of PWD clients do not receive either an annual bus pass or the STS. In addition, because the STS is a cash benefit to clients, it is often preferred to a bus pass and as a result, the STS cost has been rising steadily by over 10% annually.



# MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

## INFORMATION NOTE

There is building public pressure to increase income assistance rates. The last PWD rate increase occurred in 2007 and was for \$50.00/month. The current PWD rate for a single individual is \$906/month.

The ministry has considered various rate increase options and the cost impacts, which are outlined in appendix 2. <sup>s.13</sup>

s.12,s.13

s.13,s.12

s.12

s.13,s.12

s.13,s.12

### **CONCLUSION:**

The ministry has outlined five options for consideration, dependent on the level of funding available.

### **Attachments**

Appendix 1: Cross-jurisdictional rate comparisons

Appendix 2: Costing options

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Honourable Michelle Stilwell  
Minister

### **Prepared by:**

Name Len Dawes

Title ADM, Corporate Services

# MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

## INFORMATION NOTE

### Appendix 1 Jurisdictional Comparison:

#### **Monthly Total Income Assistance Rates by Province (as of November 2015) (including federal and provincial child benefits)**

| Province                             | Employable | Barriers/<br>PPMB | Person<br>with a<br>Disability |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| British Columbia                     | 610.00     | 657.92            | 906.42                         |
| Alberta <sup>1</sup>                 | 627.00     | 809.00            | 1,588.00                       |
| Saskatchewan <sup>2</sup>            | 678.21     | 825.37            | 1,391.00                       |
| Manitoba <sup>3</sup>                | 655.00     | 871.00            | 871.00                         |
| Ontario                              | 681.00     | 681.00            | 1,110.00                       |
| Quebec <sup>4</sup>                  | 646.00     | 937.00            | 937.00                         |
| New Brunswick <sup>5</sup>           | 537.00     | 576.00            | 763.00                         |
| Prince Edward Island <sup>6</sup>    | 619.00     | 812.00            | 812.00                         |
| Nova Scotia <sup>7</sup>             | 555.00     | 790.00            | 790.00                         |
| Newfoundland & Labrador <sup>8</sup> | 733.00     | 733.00            | 733.00                         |
| <b>BC RANK</b>                       | <b>8</b>   | <b>8</b>          | <b>5</b>                       |

<sup>1</sup>Barriers to Full Employment category includes Personal Needs Supplement.

<sup>2</sup>Saskatchewan will pay for actual utility costs if they are not included in rent. Figures include average utility costs for FY2013/14.

<sup>3</sup> Manitoba will also pay for actual utility costs if they are not included in rent.

<sup>4</sup> Employable rate includes Allowance for Single Employable.

<sup>5</sup> Disability rate includes monthly Disability Supplement.

<sup>6</sup> Rates include Travel Allowance.

<sup>7</sup> Nova Scotia also provides a Poverty Reduction Credit (introduced in July 2010) for those on IA who have no children and were on IA for the whole of the previous tax year.

<sup>8</sup> Rates include Island Fuel Supplement. Rates for singles (except PWD) are for those over age 30 years. Lower rates apply to employable singles and singles with barriers to employment who are under age 30.

# MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

## INFORMATION NOTE

### Appendix 2 Incremental Costs per Option:

| Option    | Pros/ Cons | Additional Annual Cost (millions) | # of PWD Clients Benefiting | # of PWD Clients not Benefiting | New Rate (Increase in brackets) |
|-----------|------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| s.12      |            |                                   |                             |                                 |                                 |
| s.12,s.13 |            |                                   |                             |                                 |                                 |
| s.12      |            |                                   |                             |                                 |                                 |
| s.12,s.13 |            |                                   |                             |                                 |                                 |
| s.12      |            |                                   |                             |                                 |                                 |

Page 015 to/à Page 017

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

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## Redman, Crystal SDSI:EX

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**From:** Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 3:52 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Farquharson, Laurie J SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Budget Speech

Thanks for sharing this w the staff. I wonder if we want to have a brief discussion about it with staff tomorrow, from an engagement point of view?

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**From:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 3:26 PM  
**To:** SDSI FASB All Staff Victoria  
**Subject:** Budget Speech

Here is the Budget Speech.  
Our piece is as follows:

### **Social Development and Social Innovation**

We are also making sure our social safety net is there for other vulnerable British Columbians.

That is why *Budget 2016* provides an extra \$250 million over the next three years to the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation for individuals and families in need, addressing caseload pressure for temporary income assistance, disability assistance and related supplementary benefits.

An additional \$36 million over three years is being provided to Community Living BC to support services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and to address continued caseload growth and demand for services.

There is a measure of independence in daily life that many of us take for granted.

To support the goals established in Accessibility 2024 — this government's plan to make B.C. the most progressive province in Canada for people with disabilities — *Budget 2016* provides \$170 million over three years to increase income assistance rates for Persons with Disabilities. This increase in rates will take effect Sept. 1, 2016.

In addition to being challenged by rates that haven't changed in a number of years, depending on where you live, you may or may not receive assistance for a basic need like transportation costs.

Some get \$52 for a bus pass. Others get a special transportation subsidy. Almost half of those on disability assistance, roughly 47,000 people, get nothing.

We think that's unfair, and we think all British Columbians ... no matter where they live ... deserve to have their need to move about taken into account.

That's particularly true for those with disabilities.

Disability Assistance is there to promote greater independence for people with disabilities, and transportation is fundamental to independence.

Rather than providing a transportation subsidy that only benefits some, effective Sept. 1, irrespective of where they live, those on disability assistance will be receiving an increase — up to \$77 per month and the freedom to make their own choice about how to meet their own unique transportation needs.

This won't eliminate the challenges those living with disabilities face, and it won't suddenly make life easier, but we hope it will help make life a little less hard.

The measure of any society is reflected in the degree to which it is willing to help the most vulnerable and create the kind of supports that will truly make a difference in their lives.

For these British Columbians, we want to be able to provide the help they need to be happy, healthy, productive and as independent as possible in their lives.

That's what our social safety net is there for.

**Martha Okot Thomas, CPA, CA**

Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation

**778-676-3739**

**THE TOP WHEEL UNIT**

 **Rethink Reduce Reuse Repair Recycle**



## Redman, Crystal SDSI:EX

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**From:** Godin, Keith FIN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2016 9:39 AM  
**To:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Piccott, Ryan FIN:EX; Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX; Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX  
**Subject:** RE: PWD 47,000

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Ok, thank you

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2016 9:33 AM  
**To:** Godin, Keith FIN:EX; Piccott, Ryan FIN:EX; Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX; Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX  
**Subject:** RE: PWD 47,000

Keep in mind this target is constantly moving with 4% annual growth. Current caseload is around 97,000 and we were forecasting it to be 104,000 by Jan 1 2017 which is what we based our projected start date for the rate increase on. The other nuance is that caseload includes a PWD couple as one caseload, so actual PWD recipients is about 2000 more than caseload...so if we say around 100,000, we are being accurate. s.13

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Godin, Keith FIN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2016 9:22 AM  
**To:** Piccott, Ryan FIN:EX; Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX; Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX  
**Cc:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: PWD 47,000

Yes, we just need to be on same page and be mindful of a few different sources of info - i.e.

- PUBLIC topic box: "...approximately 100,000..."
- PUBLIC materials assumptions table (track of 97,900; 102,500; 102,900)
- INTERNAL budget decision which was based on 104,000 (47,000 no subsidy; 35,000 bus pass; 22,000 STS).

My concern stems from the budget deck and speech which refers to 100,000. I'm going to modify to say "over 100,000" and then Minister is better positioned to reference the 47,000 who benefit from full \$77.

Thanks everyone.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Piccott, Ryan FIN:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2016 9:17 AM  
**To:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX; Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX  
**Cc:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Godin, Keith FIN:EX  
**Subject:** RE: PWD 47,000

Actually this is ringing a bell, we started referring to "approximately 100k" in the DA rate topic box.



-----Original Message-----

From: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 9:05 AM  
To: Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX  
Cc: Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Godin, Keith FIN:EX; Piccott, Ryan FIN:EX  
Subject: Re: PWD 47,000

Can you share the document you have that shows the 100?

Martha Okot Thomas CPA, CA  
CEO and Executive Director  
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation  
(778) 676 - 3739

> On Feb 11, 2016, at 8:41 AM, Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX <[Craig.Thomson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Craig.Thomson@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

>

> Len / Martha ...

>

> Can you please advise why we're using 100K as the # of PWD clients impacted by the DA rate change? We'd previously been using 104,000 based on numbers in the information sheet you provided us.

> I know we've talked about this before, and I'm sure I have an email somewhere, but s.22 and don't have access to my notes or a good email search function.

> Keith is asking about the 100,000 vs 104,000.

>

> Thanks very much.

>

---

> From: Godin, Keith FIN:EX

> Sent: February-11-16 6:56 AM

> To: Piccott, Ryan FIN:EX; Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX

> Subject: PWD 47,000

>

> Thinking about the 47,000... can you explain the math to me. I recall 35k for STS and 22k for bus pass so that equals 104k. But we've been using 100k for MO materials.

## Redman, Crystal SDSI:EX

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**From:** Godin, Keith FIN:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:41 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: History of Program/Legislative change

Very helpful – thank you

**From:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:56 AM  
**To:** Godin, Keith FIN:EX  
**Subject:** FW: History of Program/Legislative change

Maybe too late but this will help for sure

**From:** Ross, Ian SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:13 AM  
**To:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: History of Program/Legislative change

s.13

Page 023

Withheld pursuant to/removal as

s.13

**From:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 9, 2016 7:03 PM  
**To:** Ross, Ian SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** Re: History of Program/Legislative change

Thanks Ian. I did manage to find some stuff on the OLR but mostly from 2002 when the Employment and Assistance acts were passed. I suspected they replaced older legislation but couldn't find it.

Martha

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 9, 2016, at 6:00 PM, Ross, Ian SDSI:EX <[Ian.Ross@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ian.Ross@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Bus pass goes back to at least the 80s. Sts started in 2000 or 2001 as the result of a human rights complaint. I can get you more precise dates in the am.

On Feb 9, 2016, at 5:37 PM, Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX <[Martha.Thomas@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Martha.Thomas@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi,

I send you an IM hoping you catch you before you left.

Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX 4:54 PM

Hi Ian, I am getting asked a question from Treasury Board I am hoping you can assist me with

Some of the changes that are currently happening with the Disability Assistance Rates -

s.13

Do you know how long the STS and Bus Pass programs have been around?  
Or do you know how I can find that out? I am hoping you have a cheat sheet of legislated changes/program implementation dates....

Do you have any links/references you can share with me?

thanks

**Martha Okot Thomas, CPA, CA**  
Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer  
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation  
778-676-3739



## Redman, Crystal SDSI:EX

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**From:** Godin, Keith FIN:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 9, 2016 5:30 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Special Transportation Subsidy

Thanks Martha

On Feb 9, 2016, at 5:28 PM, Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX <[Martha.Thomas@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Martha.Thomas@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

From what I can find on our internet page:

[https://gwww.hsd.gov.bc.ca/intranet/meia/online\\_resource/general\\_supplements/sts/current/index.html](https://gwww.hsd.gov.bc.ca/intranet/meia/online_resource/general_supplements/sts/current/index.html)

It was originally implemented December 1/2003.

In April 2005 the rate was increased to reflect higher Translink rates for persons with disabilities

[https://gwww.hsd.gov.bc.ca/intranet/meia/online\\_resource/general\\_supplements/sts/recent\\_changes/pr0105\\_sts\\_changenotice.html](https://gwww.hsd.gov.bc.ca/intranet/meia/online_resource/general_supplements/sts/recent_changes/pr0105_sts_changenotice.html)

From what I can tell, Bus Pass is a supplement that has been around as long as the legislation has been in place but I can keep looking.

MT

**Martha Okot Thomas, CPA, CA**

Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation

**778-676-3739**

 **Rethink Reduce Reuse Repair Recycle**

## Redman, Crystal SDSI:EX

---

**From:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 24, 2016 8:53 AM  
**To:** Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX; Andersen, Torunn SDSI:EX; Fekete, Renee SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Update on status of Oct 23rd BC Transit Bus Pass Error  
**Attachments:** Bus Pass option.xlsx

Hi Keith,

I have created another sheet (Len). Can you verify my assumptions/calcs. I'm wondering if BC transit costs are low relative to Translink for pwd but that might make sense given better bus system in Vancouver, whereas rural clients more likely to use STS?

Also, when I calculate 35000 bus pass users \* \$52 cost, it equals almost \$22m. I know we came up with this the first time too and I believe you got rationale from Rob why we calculated less annual savings (ie \$17.3M).

Let's walk through this Monday morning before my exec meeting at lunch.

Thanks Len

---

**From:** Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2016 5:33 PM  
**To:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX; Andersen, Torunn SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Update on status of Oct 23rd BC Transit Bus Pass Error

Hi Len, attached is another go at it, can discuss on Monday if needed. Was able to determine that 30% of PWD bus pass clients have their bus passes through BC Transit, [s.17,s.16,s.13](#)

[s.13,s.16,s.17](#) Details are in the attached.

Thanks,  
Keith

---

**From:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2016 2:48 PM  
**To:** Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX; Andersen, Torunn SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Update on status of Oct 23rd BC Transit Bus Pass Error

By noon though. Meeting with exec at 12:30 to discuss. Thanks

On Jan 22, 2016, at 1:41 PM, Dawes, Len SDSI:EX <[Len.Dawes@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Len.Dawes@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Monday is fine

On Jan 22, 2016, at 1:17 PM, Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX <[Keith.C.Parker@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Keith.C.Parker@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

No problem, does later afternoon work I have a 130 then a 230. Can adjust if needed.

---

**From:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2016 1:05 PM  
**To:** Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX



Page 028 to/à Page 035

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13,s.17

## Redman, Crystal SDSI:EX

---

**From:** Fieltsch, Raymond SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2016 4:24 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Bus Pass

Yes, Rob B is aware but will likely hold off on further notifications within his division.

---

**From:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2016 3:47 PM  
**To:** Fieltsch, Raymond SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Bus Pass

Thanks Raymond,

Have we looped in ISD yet?

Martha

---

**From:** Fieltsch, Raymond SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2016 3:23 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Bus Pass

Hi All,  
At this point we are thinking clients can opt in to the bus pass the same way they always have. Pay \$45 in the fall and receive an annual pass for the following year. In you costing for next fiscal (lift + bus pass), it should only include 4 months (Sep-Dec) as they will have to decide by January 1. The \$52 is the amount we pay per client per month in the TransLink contract only (BC Transit is different). It doesn't reflect the actual market cost of a monthly bus pass so can only be amended through negotiation with TransLink.

Raymond

---

**From:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2016 2:04 PM  
**To:** Fieltsch, Raymond SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Bus Pass

Hi,

See the comments below. My understanding is that we are not going to be eliminating the bus pass but giving clients the option of the extra money or the bus pass. Hopefully that was yours.

We are doing some costing on the possibility [s.13](#)

[s.13](#)

Plus, Len would like it if you could add something to your Estimates Note on what happens if the bus pass goes above the \$52 mark. I suspect we might have to support you on that.

Let me know.

Martha

---

**From:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2016 1:40 PM  
**To:** Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Bus Pass

Hi Rob,

Now the fun begins as we roll this out. ☺ s.12  
s.12

It will be up to SDD to roll this out.

Martha

---

**From:** Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2016 12:44 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** Bus Pass

Hi Martha,

s.12

Thanks,

Rob

Rob Bruce  
Executive Director, Research Branch  
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation  
(250) 356-6787

## Redman, Crystal SDSI:EX

---

**From:** Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 3:00 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Transportation Five Scenarios Table (2).xlsx

Sorry....

---

**From:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 2:57 PM  
**To:** Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Transportation Five Scenarios Table (2).xlsx

Thanks Rob. That got picked up in the note but I didn't update the schedule. I will do that now.

Martha

---

**From:** Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 2:55 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Transportation Five Scenarios Table (2).xlsx

# 5 annual cost is too high, as it is basically a pure \$77 rate increase to all cases. It is really the \$25/case + the cost of #3 , so closer to \$60 million. Also, it is mixing clients and cases. [s.13,s.17](#)  
[s.13,s.17](#)

---

**From:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 2:41 PM  
**To:** Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX  
**Cc:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** Transportation Five Scenarios Table (2).xlsx  
**Importance:** High

Hopefully this makes sense – I have added a line to the calculations to prorate the savings from the current programs for three months and the cost of the rate increases for three months which gives you the incremental cost to our budget for each of the options if we implement in January.

## Redman, Crystal SDSI:EX

---

**From:** Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 2:59 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Deadline

Got it! Thank you very much .... Note will go out on time.

Cheers,  
C.

~~~~~

Craig Thomson
Strategic Advisor, Treasury Board Staff
desk: 250.356.5911
mobile: 250.580.7438

From: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 2:53 PM
To: Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX
Subject: RE: Deadline

Please note **s.12,s.17,s.13**
s.17,s.12,s.13

MT

From: Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 2:39 PM
To: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Deadline

s.12,s.13

Cheers,
C.

~~~~~

**Craig Thomson**  
Strategic Advisor, Treasury Board Staff  
desk: 250.356.5911  
mobile: 250.580.7438

---

**From:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 2:36 PM  
**To:** Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX; Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Deadline

We just finished having a conversation about **s.12,s.13**

s.12,s.13

We will do our best to update the costing for you, s.12,s.13

---

**From:** Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 2:03 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Deadline  
**Importance:** High

I don't follow the financial impact on total 2016/17 DA rate increases if s.12,s.13  
s.12,s.13 ASAP please.

Cheers,  
C.

~~~~~  
Craig Thomson
Strategic Advisor, Treasury Board Staff
desk: 250.356.5911
mobile: 250.580.7438

From: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:53 PM
To: Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX
Cc: Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Deadline

1. As I understand it, s.12,s.13,s.17
s.12,s.13,s.17
2. Yes
3. We would like to see s.12,s.1 I just talked with Rob Byers about systems changes s.12,s.13
s.12,s.13
4. No – the low income senior who is PWD will be given the new rates.

From: Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:47 PM
To: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Cc: Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Deadline
Importance: High

So to summarize ...

s.12,s.13,s.17

Cheers,

C.

Craig Thomson

Strategic Advisor, Treasury Board Staff

desk: 250.356.5911

mobile: 250.580.7438

From: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX

Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:32 PM

To: Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX

Cc: Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX

Subject: RE: Deadline

1. Low Income Seniors Bus pass- For the bus pass most of the clients are the Senior anyway – so we will not see much savings as a result of implementing a transportation allowance.
2. The note says that the costs are annual costs but if we implement in 16/17 we would need to prorate. We have

s.13,s.12

Keep in mind that we pay the STS out in Sept/Oct for the next calendar year so the full amount would be saved and the costs would only be for three months. As for the bus pass, we would still pay the monthly amount until January and then the increased rates would be simply transfer from bus pass to monthly allowance (change of payee essentially).

From: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX

Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:15 PM

To: Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX

Cc: Parker, Keith C SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Bruce, Robert SDSI:EX

Subject: RE: Deadline

Importance: High

Here is what I have. Still working on the Seniors and Implementation date:

s.12,s.13,s.17

From: Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 12:17 PM
To: Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX
Subject: Deadline
Importance: High

Martha, I have a 2PM deadline to make any necessary revisions to my budget note ... please expedite the answer to questions as discussed!

Many thanks.

Cheers,
C.

~~~~~

**Craig Thomson**  
Strategic Advisor, Treasury Board Staff  
desk: 250.356.5911  
mobile: 250.580.7438

## **Fekete, Renee SDSI:EX**

---

**From:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2016 3:14 PM  
**To:** Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX; Fekete, Renee SDSI:EX; Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX; Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX; Ross, Ian SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** FW: NR-BG\_PWD\_Feb112016 (3)  
**Attachments:** NR-BG\_PWD\_Feb112016 (3).docx

Hi Sean,  
My edits/comments attached

**From:** Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2016 2:37 PM  
**To:** Ross, Ian SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** McGaghey Jones, Stacey SDSI:EX; MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX; Fekete, Renee SDSI:EX; Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX; Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** NR-BG\_PWD\_Feb112016 (3)

Hi Ian, hoping you have time to take a look at the attached NR for the PWD rate increase next week—suggestions and edits welcome.

Len, do you mind checking the numbers?

Thanks all!

Sean Leslie  
Senior Public Affairs Officer  
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation  
(250) 356-1670(o)  
(250) 893-4403(m)

**Dawes, Len SDSI:EX**

---

**From:** Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 5:26 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Ross, Ian SDSI:EX; Fieltch, Raymond SDSI:EX; MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX; Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Changes to Disability Assistance from Budget 2016 - Table  
**Attachments:** Changes to Disability Assistance from Budget 2016 - Table.docx

Final Table attached. Shared with Inclusion BC

Thx

---

**From:** Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 5:20 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Ross, Ian SDSI:EX; Fieltch, Raymond SDSI:EX; MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX; Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Changes to Disability Assistance from Budget 2016 - Table

Here is where we ended up on the Table.

Thanks all.

### Changes to B.C. Disability Assistance Rates from Budget 2016

|                                       | Current Rate                       |                                                              |                            | Proposed Rates Effective September 1, 2016 |                                                                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                       | Current Disability Assistance Rate | Transportation Supports Provided by the Ministry             | Total Monthly Cash Benefit | Disability Assistance Rate                 | Transportation                                                                  | Total Adjusted Monthly Cash Benefit |
| BC Bus Pass Holder*                   | \$906                              | \$52 per month<br>(cost to the Ministry)                     | \$906                      | \$983                                      | -\$52 per month<br>(Subsidized bus pass purchased by individual if they choose) | \$931                               |
| Special Transportation Subsidy Client | \$906                              | \$66 per month<br>(Paid to client as annual amount of \$790) | \$972                      | \$983                                      | -                                                                               | \$983                               |
| No Transportation Subsidy             | \$906                              | -                                                            | \$906                      | \$983                                      | -                                                                               | \$983                               |

\*BC Bus Pass Holders currently pay an annual \$45 administration fee. They will continue to pay the \$45 administration fee.

## Dawes, Len SDSI:EX

**From:** Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 4:55 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Ross, Ian SDSI:EX; Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Changes to Disability Assistance from Budget 2016 - Table

Hi,

How about the following: Still point to the \$66 but with the caveat "if client chooses to use for transportation needs). (See below)

Ultimately **s.13**

**s.13**

The other option is to put the same caveat above under the \$11 in the last column.

| Disability Assistance Rate<br>(Sept 1) | Transportation Supports                                               | Total Adjusted Monthly<br>Benefits | N |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| \$983                                  | -\$52<br>(Subsidized bus pass purchased by individual if they choose) | \$931                              |   |
| \$983                                  | -\$66 (If client chooses to use for transportation needs)             | \$917                              |   |
| \$983                                  | -                                                                     | \$983                              |   |

**From:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 4:32 PM  
**To:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX; Ross, Ian SDSI:EX; Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Changes to Disability Assistance from Budget 2016 - Table

Agree

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 17, 2016, at 4:31 PM, "Dawes, Len SDSI:EX" <[Len.Dawes@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Len.Dawes@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

No it is correct as is.

**From:** Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 4:29 PM  
**To:** Ross, Ian SDSI:EX; Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Changes to Disability Assistance from Budget 2016 - Table

Yes. But for the purpose of the table - how do we explain the \$11 in the chart? We need to show how they get to the \$11. Can we say "less \$66 for transportation costs" under the Transportation Support Column?

**From:** Ross, Ian SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 4:19 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX; Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Changes to Disability Assistance from Budget 2016 - Table

Approved. STS clients get 983

**From:** Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 4:11 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX; Ross, Ian SDSI:EX; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Changes to Disability Assistance from Budget 2016 - Table

Hi Molly/Ian,  
Minister asked for some changes to the table before we send to Inclusion BC. In the attached.

## **Dawes, Len SDSI:EX**

---

**From:** Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 12:36 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Fieltch, Raymond SDSI:EX; Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: 2016 Budget Announcements - Stakeholder Comms v2

Approved. It has two per months in a row near the end.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

**From:** Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 12:29 PM  
**To:** Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Fieltch, Raymond SDSI:EX; Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: 2016 Budget Announcements - Stakeholder Comms v2

Hi David,

Len and Molly have signed off on the stakeholder comm. Are you okay with this? Attached and pasted below.  
Thx

Yesterday the 2016/17 Provincial Budget was tabled. This is government's direction for the coming year.

**Effective September 2016**, all Persons with Disability (PWD) clients will receive a rate increase of up to \$77 a month.

The rate increase includes changes to realign transportation supports and provides greater equity and choice for all PWD clients.

There are approximately 100,000 people with the PWD designation. About 55,000 receive funding for transportation costs, through either a subsidized bus pass or a Special Transportation Subsidy. About another 45,000 people do not receive transportation assistance, many because they do not live in communities served by public transit.

Starting September 1, 2016, the rate increase will come into effect and PWD clients will be able to choose how they receive transportation support.

- PWD clients who do not have a BC Bus Pass or Special Transportation Supplement will receive a \$77 per month increase to their support allowance.
- PWD clients who access the BC Bus Pass Program will receive a \$25 per month increase to their support allowance plus the subsidized bus pass. After September 1, clients will have the option to turn in their bus pass at any time and receive the full \$77 in the following months.
- PWD clients receiving the Special Transportation Subsidy (which is equivalent to \$66 a month) will see this included within the monthly \$77 rate increase effective September 1; this provides an additional \$11 per month to their support allowance. The 2016 lump-sum payment for STS that will be included with April's Disability Assistance payment will be pro-rated for 5 months (April - August).

The BC Bus Pass program remains in place. Currently, BC Bus Pass holders receive \$52 in value a month in the form of a bus pass. Once the changes are effective, all people with the PWD designation will receive up to \$77 cash per month, and they can decide how to spend it.

People on disability assistance will still have access to a subsidized bus pass for \$52 per month per month plus the annual \$45 administration fee. However, in some communities, a bus pass costs less than \$52 a month and people may be better off purchasing a pass directly from BC Transit.

There is no change to the BC Bus Pass Program for low-income seniors. The ministry will continue to provide a subsidized pass to eligible seniors for the annual \$45 administration fee.

In summary, Budget 2016 provides an extra \$170 million over the next three years to support rate increase and an additional \$250 million over the next three years to address caseload pressure for temporary income assistance, disability assistance and related supplementary benefits.



## **Dawes, Len SDSI:EX**

---

**From:** Godin, Keith FIN:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 11:38 AM  
**To:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX; Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Bus Pass Impacts post Sept 1 2017 v2

Thank you

---

**From:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 11:31 AM  
**To:** Godin, Keith FIN:EX  
**Cc:** Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX; Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Bus Pass Impacts post Sept 1 2017 v2

Here you go Keith. Minister quoted 47,000 but we have adjusted the math to work with 100,000. As I explained to media and stakeholders yesterday, the target is constantly moving given continuing caseload growth so what is 45,000 today is likely closer to 47,000 Sept 1.

Page 051 to/à Page 052

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s.14,s.13

Page 053

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14,s.13,s.12

## **McGaghey Jones, Stacey SDSI:EX**

---

**From:** Inclusion BC <dkelliher=inclusionbc.org@mail166.atl171.mcdlv.net> on behalf of Inclusion BC <dkelliher@inclusionbc.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 4, 2016 1:21 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** Delivering petition March 9, let's reach 20,000!

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## McGaghey Jones, Stacey SDSI:EX

---

**From:** Inclusion BC <dkelliher=inclusionbc.org@mail228.atl171.mcdlv.net> on behalf of Inclusion BC <dkelliher@inclusionbc.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 29, 2016 4:05 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RALLIES: Raise the rates, leave our bus pass alone

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x



## McGaghey Jones, Stacey SDSI:EX

---

**From:** Inclusion BC <dkelliher=inclusionbc.org@mail55.atl71.mcdlv.net> on behalf of Inclusion BC <dkelliher@inclusionbc.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 12:07 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** Alert: PWD annual bus pass program to be cancelled

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## McGaghey Jones, Stacey SDSI:EX

---

**From:** Inclusion BC <dkelliher=inclusionbc.org@mail57.suw15.mcsv.net> on behalf of Inclusion BC <dkelliher@inclusionbc.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 2, 2016 10:31 AM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** News release: Raise the rates, leave our bus pass alone

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## McGaghey Jones, Stacey SDSI:EX

---

**From:** Inclusion BC <dkelliher=inclusionbc.org@mail38.atl11.rsgsv.net> on behalf of Inclusion BC <dkelliher@inclusionbc.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2016 2:51 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** Sign the petition: Raise the rates, leave our bus pass alone.

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## McGaghey Jones, Stacey SDSI:EX

---

**From:** Inclusion BC <dkelliher=inclusionbc.org@mail196.atl61.mcsv.net> on behalf of Inclusion BC <dkelliher@inclusionbc.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 11:18 AM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** PWD Rate Increase, with strings attached

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## McGaghey Jones, Stacey SDSI:EX

---

**From:** Faith Bodnar <fbodnar@inclusionbc.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2016 7:48 AM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: BUDGET - Stakeholder Communications

Thanks. I'll will advise s.22

Faith

Sent from my Windows Phone

---

**From:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** 2016-02-18 7:38 AM  
**To:** Faith Bodnar  
**Cc:** Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: BUDGET - Stakeholder Communications

?No the special transportation subsidy recipients will get \$11 more a month - they currently get \$66 a month (paid once a year). Bus passes vary by city, pwd recipients will have the option to purchase a ministry bus pass for a subsidized rate of \$52 per month - so in Victoria they can purchase it for \$52 a month and then have the extra \$25 a month.

Molly

---

**From:** Faith Bodnar  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 7:44 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: BUDGET - Stakeholder Communications

Hi, s.22 receives a special transportation subsidy of \$77/month. I've also heard that adult bus passes in Victoria are \$85. We are being asked if that means some will owe money back.

Sorry for the after hours contact and I can wait till tomorrow but it seems things are get in more complex and I don't have answers.

Faith

Sent from my Windows Phone

---

**From:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX<mailto:Molly.Harrington@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** 2016-02-17 1:50 PM  
**To:** 'MORRIS, Jonny'<mailto:jonny.morris@cmha.bc.ca>; 'Vivian Lee'<mailto:Vivian.Lee@cmha.bc.ca>; 'jwd@disabilityalliancebc.org'; 'BELANGER, Neil'<mailto:exdir@bcands.bc.ca>; 'COPAS, Lorraine'<mailto:lcopas@sparc.bc.ca>; 'VULIMIRI, Amita'<mailto:AVulimiri@clasbc.net>; 'GUTRAY, Bev'<mailto:bev.gutray@cmha.bc.ca>; 'LOXTON, Robin'<mailto:robin@disabilityalliancebc.org>; 'FBodnar@bcac1.org'; 'Karen Williams'<mailto:kwilliams@sparc.bc.ca>; Faith Bodnar<mailto:fbodnar@inclusionbc.org>  
**Subject:** FW: BUDGET - Stakeholder Communications

Please find attached communication detail about the announcement yesterday.

Thank you

Molly  
Molly Harrington



ADM Research, Innovation and Policy Division  
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation  
Phone: 250-356-5065  
Email: [molly.harrington@gov.bc.ca](mailto:molly.harrington@gov.bc.ca)

From: Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX  
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 1:40 PM  
To: Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
Cc: Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX  
Subject: Fwd: BUDGET - Stakeholder Communications Email

## **McGaghey Jones, Stacey SDSI:EX**

---

**From:** Faith Bodnar <fbodnar@inclusionbc.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 3:36 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: BUDGET - Stakeholder Communications

Thanks Molly. I appreciate the clarification. Some of us found it a difficult announcement to up pack. While we were correct in our initial Press Release, the impact of the transportation claw backs diminish what could have been an opportunity by government to do something important and signal to people on PWD and those who support and love them that things were on a different path that reflected the desperate need to increase PWD Rates in a truly meaningful way. I realize that this is a different conversation but also know it is the right conversation to have.

Thank you again for calling.

Faith

**Faith Bodnar**  
Executive Director  
Inclusion BC  
604-777-9100 ext. 516  
[inclusionBC.org](http://inclusionBC.org)

[Watch the history of our movement.](#)



**From:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX [<mailto:Molly.Harrington@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 1:50 PM  
**To:** 'MORRIS, Jonny'; 'Vivian Lee'; 'jwd@disabilityalliancebc.org'; 'BELANGER, Neil'; 'COPAS, Lorraine'; 'VULIMIRI, Amita'; 'GUTRAY, Bev'; 'LOXTON, Robin'; 'FBodnar@bcac1.org'; 'Karen Williams'; Faith Bodnar  
**Subject:** FW: BUDGET - Stakeholder Communications

Please find attached communication detail about the announcement yesterday.

Thank you

Molly  
Molly Harrington  
ADM Research, Innovation and Policy Division  
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation  
Phone: 250-356-5065  
Email: [molly.harrington@gov.bc.ca](mailto:molly.harrington@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 1:40 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: BUDGET - Stakeholder Communications Email

## McGaghey Jones, Stacey SDSI:EX

---

**From:** Faith Bodnar <fbodnar@inclusionbc.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 7:44 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** RE: BUDGET - Stakeholder Communications

Hi, one s.22 receives a special transportation subsidy of \$77/month. I've also heard that adult bus passes in Victoria are \$85. We are being asked if that means some will owe money back.

Sorry for the after hours contact and I can wait till tomorrow but it seems things are get in more complex and I don't have answers.

Faith

Sent from my Windows Phone

---

**From:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** 2016-02-17 1:50 PM  
**To:** 'MORRIS, Jonny'; 'Vivian Lee'; 'jwd@disabilityalliancebc.org'; 'BELANGER, Neil'; 'COPAS, Lorraine'; 'VULIMIRI, Amita'; 'GUTRAY, Bev'; 'LOXTON, Robin'; 'FBodnar@bcac1.org'; 'Karen Williams'; Faith Bodnar  
**Subject:** FW: BUDGET - Stakeholder Communications

Please find attached communication detail about the announcement yesterday.

Thank you

Molly

Molly Harrington

ADM Research, Innovation and Policy Division

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation

Phone: 250-356-5065

Email: [molly.harrington@gov.bc.ca](mailto:molly.harrington@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 1:40 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: BUDGET - Stakeholder Communications Email

**D'Argis, Julie SDSI:EX**

---

**From:** Taylor, Sheila A SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2016 3:35 PM  
**To:** MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX; Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: FYI: Sign the petition: Raise the rates, leave our bus pass alone.

Are we keeping David in the loop as A/DM?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX" <[Karen.MacMillan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Karen.MacMillan@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** February 18, 2016 at 3:16:59 PM PST  
**To:** "Taylor, Sheila A SDSI:EX" <[Sheila.Taylor@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sheila.Taylor@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FYI: Sign the petition: Raise the rates, leave our bus pass alone.

---

**From:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2016 2:54 PM  
**To:** Richmond, Valerie D SDSI:EX; Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX; Blake, Kristen SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Sign the petition: Raise the rates, leave our bus pass alone.

---

**From:** Inclusion BC [<mailto:dkelliher=inclusionbc.org@mail38.atl11.rsgsv.net>] **On Behalf Of** Inclusion BC  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2016 2:51 PM  
**To:** Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** Sign the petition: Raise the rates, leave our bus pass alone.

[View this email in your browser](#)



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Page 69 to/à Page 71

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

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**D'Argis, Julie SDSI:EX**

---

**From:** BC News On Demand GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 4:24 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Sheila A SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** BC News - More support, more choices for people with disabilities



*Wednesday, February 17, 2016*

**More support, more choices for people with disabilities**

To create equity in the system the Province is investing \$170 million over the next three years to ensure about 100,000 people on disability assistance in B.C. will receive a rate increase of up to \$77 a month as of Sept. 1, 2016.

**You are receiving this BCGov news item based on your subscription to these topic areas:**

News by Ministry - Social Development and Social Innovation  
News by Sector - Economy  
News by Sector - Government Operations  
News by Sector - Services

Please do not reply to this email.

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[See more from BC News](#)

## D'Argis, Julie SDSI:EX

---

**From:** Taylor, Sheila A SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2016 10:55 AM  
**To:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX; Godin, Keith FIN:EX; Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Speech

Second bullet - can we say

- Some get a \$52 bus pass. Others get a \$66 transportation subsidy. Almost half of those on disability assistance get nothing.

For the last bullet issue could we say 'up to \$77'?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 29, 2016, at 10:44 AM, Dawes, Len SDSI:EX <[Len.Dawes@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Len.Dawes@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Craig,

See small edits below. Thanks Len

---

**From:** Thomson, Craig S FIN:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2016 10:09 AM  
**To:** Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; Taylor, Sheila A SDSI:EX  
**Cc:** Godin, Keith FIN:EX; Thomas, Martha O SDSI:EX  
**Subject:** Speech  
**Importance:** High

Len / Sheila: Could you please validate the following text for potential inclusion in budget speech ...  
need **reply soonest possible**. Thanks!

- there's a fundamental inequity that has arisen relating to the fact that depending on where you live, you may or may not receive assistance for a basic need like transportation costs. *[based on my understanding I believe this is true ... STS or bus pass only available to PWD living in transit served areas]*
- Some get \$52 for transportation in some areas. Others get \$66 for transportation. Almost half of those on disability assistance get nothing. *[as above, I believe this is true]*
- That's why effective September 1, irrespective of where they live, those on disability assistance will be receiving \$52 for transportation costs, on top of an increase to everyone's basic rate by \$25. *[are you ok with this characterization?]*

s.13

Cheers,

C.

~~~~~  
Craig Thomson

Strategic Advisor, Treasury Board Staff
desk: 250.356.5911

mobile: 250.580.7438

D'Argis, Julie SDSI:EX

From: Taylor, Sheila A SDSI:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 6:08 PM
To: Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Cc: D'Argis, Julie SDSI:EX; MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX
Subject: FW: REVIEW/APPROVAL DN-Transportation Allowance V7
Attachments: DN-Transportation Allowance V7.docx

Sorry – found 1 more typo so use this version, Len.

From: Taylor, Sheila A SDSI:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 5:55 PM
To: D'Argis, Julie SDSI:EX
Cc: Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX
Subject: FW: REVIEW/APPROVAL DN-Transportation Allowance V7

I've reviewed and made a few more edits. The attached version is approved.

From: D'Argis, Julie SDSI:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 3:54 PM
To: Taylor, Sheila A SDSI:EX
Cc: Dawes, Len SDSI:EX; MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX
Subject: REVIEW/APPROVAL DN-Transportation Allowance V7

Hi Sheila,

Attached is from Len for your review and approval.

Thanks,
Julie

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

INFORMATION NOTE

DATE: December 23, 2015

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Minister Michelle Stilwell

ISSUE: Persons With Disability Rates and Transportation Allowances

BACKGROUND:

Assistance rates in British Columbia (B.C.) reflect individual and family needs including nutrition, shelter and clothing. In recognition that Persons With Disabilities (PWD) face more barriers to employment their rates are higher. Advocates typically criticize the adequacy of B.C.'s assistance rates. They believe the rates do not meet a person's long-term basic needs and often refer to a study ranking BC fifth in the country for PWD rates (appendix 1).

One of the reasons BC's PWD rates appear so low is that many of the supplementary programs available to our clients are not included in rate calculations. In particular, the ministry currently has two basic transportation supplements for PWD clients – an annual bus pass and the Special Transportation Subsidy (STS). These supplements aren't generally captured in cross-jurisdictional rate comparisons because they are not available to all PWD clients.

Annual bus passes are provided to PWD clients where public transit is available. The cost to the client is \$45 annually for the annual pass. The ministry pays the subsidized costs monthly to BC Transit and Translink for an equivalent benefit of \$52/month. An annual application/renewal process is used to confirm eligibility, collect the \$45 payment, and mail passes to clients.

The STS is provided to PWDs who reside in an area where public transit is available, but are unable to use public transit due to their disability. The STS rate is \$790/year, \$66/month (equivalent to the highest bus pass subsidy in the province), and is paid directly to clients in a lump sum each April (prorated if required). STS costs have been steadily increasing by over \$1 million each fiscal year. In total, the ministry pays an additional \$34 million in benefits to PWD clients annually.

DISCUSSION:

The current transportation assistance provided to clients is inequitable because almost half of the PWD clients do not receive either an annual bus pass or the STS. In addition, because the STS is a cash benefit to clients, it is often preferred to a bus pass and as a result, the STS cost has been rising steadily by over 10% annually.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION INFORMATION NOTE

s.12,s.13

There is building public pressure to increase income assistance rates. The last PWD rate increase occurred in 2007 and was for \$50.00/month. The current PWD rate for a single individual is \$906/month.

The ministry has considered various rate increase options and the cost impacts, which are outlined in appendix 2. s.13

s.13,s.12

s.13,s.12

s.12

s.13,s.12

s.13,s.12

CONCLUSION:

The ministry has outlined five options for consideration, dependent on the level of funding available.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Cross-jurisdictional rate comparisons

Appendix 2: Costing options

Prepared by:

Name Len Dawes

Title ADM, Corporate Services

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

INFORMATION NOTE

Appendix 1 - Jurisdictional Comparison:

Monthly Total Income Assistance Rates by Province as of November 2015 (including federal and provincial child benefits)

Province	Employable	Barriers/ PPMB	Person with a Disability
British Columbia	610.00	657.92	906.42
Alberta ¹	627.00	809.00	1,588.00
Saskatchewan ²	678.21	825.37	1,391.00
Manitoba ³	655.00	871.00	871.00
Ontario	681.00	681.00	1,110.00
Quebec ⁴	646.00	937.00	937.00
New Brunswick ⁵	537.00	576.00	763.00
Prince Edward Island ⁶	619.00	812.00	812.00
Nova Scotia ⁷	555.00	790.00	790.00
Newfoundland & Labrador ⁸	733.00	733.00	733.00
BC RANK	8	8	5

¹Barriers to Full Employment category includes Personal Needs Supplement.

²Saskatchewan will pay for actual utility costs if they are not included in rent. Figures include average utility costs for FY2013/14.

³ Manitoba will also pay for actual utility costs if they are not included in rent.

⁴ Employable rate includes Allowance for Single Employable.

⁵ Disability rate includes monthly Disability Supplement.

⁶ Rates include Travel Allowance.

⁷ Nova Scotia also provides a Poverty Reduction Credit (introduced in July 2010) for those on IA who have no children and were on IA for the whole of the previous tax year.

⁸ Rates include Island Fuel Supplement. Rates for singles (except PWD) are for those over age 30 years. Lower rates apply to employable singles and singles with barriers to employment who are under age 30.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

INFORMATION NOTE

Appendix 2 - Options for PWD rate changes:

Option	Pros/ Cons	Additional Annual Cost (millions)	# of PWD Clients Benefiting	# of PWD Clients not Benefiting	New Rate (Increase in brackets)
--------	------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------

s.12

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s.12

s.13,s.12

s.12

Evans Locker, Ann SDSI:EX

From: Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 1:49 PM
To: Evans Locker, Ann SDSI:EX
Subject: FW: Final Factsheet
Attachments: Factsheet, SDSI Rate Increase, Budget 2016 FINAL.pdf

one

David Galbraith
Assistant Deputy Minister
Service Delivery Division

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation
Tel: 250.387.7032
fax: 250.387.2418

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Where ideas work



From: Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2016 12:33 PM
To: Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX; Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX; Fieltsch, Raymond SDSI:EX; Ross, Ian SDSI:EX
Cc: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX; Jensen, Dana SDSI:EX; Archer, Terri SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Final Factsheet

Final Fact sheet is attached. Sheila asked for an edit which has been incorporated (remove 'net' from the Bus Pass Holder in the overview section).

This is posted on the newsroom at <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016SDSI0007-000258>

Thank you

From: Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2016 5:40 PM
To: Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX; Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX; Fieltsch, Raymond SDSI:EX; Ross, Ian SDSI:EX
Cc: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX; Jensen, Dana SDSI:EX; Archer, Terri SDSI:EX
Subject: Final Factsheet

Here is the approved factsheet. It will be posted later this evening to our newsroom at:
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/social-development-and-social-innovation/factsheets>

Thanks everyone.

Maryann Anderson
Communications
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation
P: 250.387.6490 | C: 250.213.1493
E: maryann.anderson@gov.bc.ca

FACT SHEET

For Immediate Release
2016SDSI0007-000258
Feb. 19, 2016

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation

Monthly rate increase for people on Disability Assistance

VICTORIA – Beginning Sept. 1, 2016, all Persons with Disability (PWD) clients will receive a rate increase of up to \$77 a month – providing extra support to 100,000 people in B.C.

The increase provides fairness in the system and more choice for people on disability assistance.

There are currently two transportation supports available to people on disability assistance:

- A subsidized bus pass if they live in communities served by Translink and BC Transit; or
- A Special Transportation Subsidy, which is paid annually and equates to \$66 a month.

About 45,000 people on disability assistance, particularly those living in smaller communities, do not receive any form of transportation-related subsidy.

Another, 55,000 people with the Person with Disabilities (PWD) designation receive a subsidized bus pass or the special transportation subsidy. These benefits are in addition to their monthly rates.

Bus Pass

- Clients with an existing bus pass will continue to be able to use their bus pass and will get a \$25 monthly rate increase starting in September.
- The annual, subsidized bus pass will continue for PWD clients and the application process will not change.
- Existing bus pass clients will receive their 2017 bus pass renewal notification from the ministry starting this summer, as they did last year.
- Those who do not want to renew their annual bus pass can just do nothing. They will automatically receive the full \$77 monthly rate increase beginning with the January 2017 payment.
- The subsidized bus pass is a significant savings to people in communities such as Victoria or Vancouver where a monthly pass can cost anywhere from \$85 to \$170 per month.
- In some communities, where a bus pass costs less than the annual subsidized pass, people may be better off not renewing their annual pass and instead purchasing a bus pass directly from BC Transit with the monthly rate increase of \$77. (For example, a bus pass currently costs \$40 a month in Fort. St. John, \$35 in Quesnel and \$44 in Chilliwack).
- There is no change to the BC Bus Pass Program for low income seniors.

Special Transportation Subsidy

- PWD clients receiving the Special Transportation Subsidy (STS), worth \$66 per month, will still receive that support, plus an additional \$11 per month rate increase starting Sept. 1, 2016.
- Traditionally STS recipients receive a one-time payment for the year in April. Existing STS

recipients will receive a prorated check on April 1, 2016 of \$329. This represents five months of STS April 1 to Aug. 31. Starting in September, their STS amount will be included in their monthly rate of \$77.

Overview of the Rate Increases in September for Different Groups:

- The 45,000 people who do not receive transportation supports will realize the full \$77 increase to their monthly cheque.
- People on disability assistance who access a subsidized annual bus pass will see an increase of \$25 per month.
- Those who get the Special Transportation Subsidy will still receive that financial support on a monthly basis rather than as an annual payment, plus an additional \$11 per month, totalling \$77 per month.

Media Contact:

Sean Leslie
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Social Development and Social
Innovation
250 356-1670

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

Evans Locker, Ann SDSI:EX

From: Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 1:49 PM
To: Evans Locker, Ann SDSI:EX
Subject: FW: Bus Pass Data Charts

2

David Galbraith
Assistant Deputy Minister
Service Delivery Division

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation
Tel: 250.387.7032
fax: 250.387.2418

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From: LaHue, Anita SDSI:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 5:00 PM
To: Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX
Subject: Bus Pass Data Charts

Hi David, best that I can put together quickly that you might be able to use, high level.

This is breakdown between bus pass years of total number of passes:

	2013 PASS	2014 PASS	2015 PASS
PWD - TRANSLINK	23,255	24,312	24,142
PWD - BC TRANSIT	11,003	11,003	11,174
TOTAL PWD	34,258	35,315	35,316
SENIORS TRANSLINK	49,671	52,223	53,574
SENIORS BC TRANSIT	8,122	8,249	8,342
TOTAL SENIORS	57,793	60,472	61,916

This is a breakdown as at September of each year plus the forecast as to where we will be in September 2016, which will give everyone an idea of how many passes there are active typically in September, from which the numbers will start to change due to the option to return the pass.

	2013 SEP AMT	2014 SEP AMT	2015 SEP AMT	2016 SEP AMT FORECAST
PWD - TRANSLINK	23,051	22,360	24,079	23,988
PWD - BC TRANSIT	11,128	10,572	11,073	11,444
TOTAL PWD	34,179	32,932	35,152	35,432
SENIORS TRANSLINK	49,025	51,384	52,668	52,469
SENIORS BC TRANSIT	7,987	7,709	8,199	8,473
TOTAL SENIORS	57,012	59,093	60,867	60,942

Here is a breakdown of the financial information over the last few years. Shows you what we paid each transit authority, includes the forecast to the end of this fiscal.

	13-14	14-15	15-16
TRANSLINK	\$ 43,262,336.00	\$ 45,609,824.00	\$ 46,193,740.09
BC TRANSIT	\$ 9,042,400.08	\$ 9,123,781.68	\$ 9,436,390.26
TOTAL	\$ 52,304,736.08	\$ 54,733,605.68	\$ 55,630,130.34
REVENUE	-\$ 4,711,325.48	-\$ 4,741,083.19	-\$ 4,792,960.89
NET	\$ 47,593,410.60	\$ 49,992,522.49	\$ 50,837,169.46

If you need more details, please let me know and I can gather them for you.

Thanks

Anita Pangborne-LaHue

Director
Performance Management, Contracts and Community Relations
Operations Support, Service Delivery Division
Phone #: 1-250-739-6603
Cell #: 1-250-667-4171

Evans Locker, Ann SDSI:EX

From: Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 1:50 PM
To: Evans Locker, Ann SDSI:EX
Subject: FW: BC Transit Spreadsheet
Attachments: BC Transit Monthly Pass Comparasion.xlsx

3

David Galbraith
Assistant Deputy Minister
Service Delivery Division

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Tel: 250.387.7032
fax: 250.387.2418

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Where ideas work



From: Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 3:16 PM
To: Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX; Dawes, Len SDSI:EX
Subject: FW: BC Transit Spreadsheet

From: Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 3:16 PM
To: Stilwell, Michelle SDSI:EX
Subject: BC Transit Spreadsheet

BC TRANSIT MONTHLY BUS PASS AMOUNTS BY COMMUNITY

REGION	Number of PWDs	Monthly Pass Amount	Multi-Zone Monthly Pass Amount
100 Mile House	s.22	\$35	
Agassiz-Harrison		\$35	
Ashcroft-Clinton		Not available \$2.00 per trip	
Bella Coola Valley		\$60	
Boundary		\$24	
Campbell River		\$52	\$60 (Valid for both Comox and Campbell River)
Central Fraser Valley		\$52	
Chilliwack		\$44	
Clearwater		Not available \$1.50/\$2.00/\$2.50 per 1/2/3 zone trip	
Columbia Valley		\$42	
Comox Valley		\$52	\$60 (Valid for both Comox and Campbell River)
Cowichan Valley		\$48	\$192 (Zone A - Cowichan Valley Commuter) \$232 (Zone B - access to Cowichan Valley and Victoria Region)
Cranbrook		\$50	
Creston Valley		Not available \$1.00 per trip	
Dawson Creek		\$50	
Elk Valley		\$42	
Fort St. John		\$40	
Hazelton		\$15 (1 zone)	\$40 (all zones)
Kamloops		\$53	
Kelowna		\$70	
Kimberley		Not available \$3.00 per trip	
Kitimat		\$44	
Memitt		\$42	
Mount Waddington		\$35 (1 zone)	\$70 (all zones)
Nanaimo		\$67.50	
Pemberton Valley		\$65 (Local pass)	\$95 (Commuter pass)
Penticton and Okanagan-Similkameen		\$45	
Port Alberni		\$48	
Port Edward		\$48	
Powell River		\$45	
Prince George		\$57.50	
Prince Rupert		\$48	
Princeton		Not available Fares vary by distance	
Quesnel		\$35	
Revelstoke		\$45	
Salt Spring Island		\$50	
Shuswap		\$45	
Skeena		\$65	
Smithers		\$50	
South Okanagan Transit System		Not available except between Osoyoos and Penticton (\$110)	
Squamish		\$39	
Summerland		\$50	
Sunshine Coast		\$60	
Terrace		\$44	
Vernon		\$50 (1 zone)	\$55 (all zones)
Victoria		\$85	
West Kootenay		\$50	\$90
Whistler		\$65	
Williams Lake		\$43	
No transit system		Not available	
Total	11174		

Summary (based on cost of multi-zone, if applicable)
Below \$52

1,894

BC TRANSIT MONTHLY BUS PASS AMOUNTS BY COMMUNITY	
--	--

REGION	Number of PWDs	Monthly Pass Amount	Multi-Zone Monthly Pass Amount
Exactly \$52	742		
Above \$52	8,299		
No pass available	238		
Total	11,174		

Evans Locker, Ann SDSI:EX

From: Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 1:50 PM
To: Evans Locker, Ann SDSI:EX
Subject: FW: Media Request: Globe and Mail/Bus Pass

4

David Galbraith
Assistant Deputy Minister
Service Delivery Division

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation
Tel: 250.387.7032
fax: 250.387.2418

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Where ideas work



From: LaHue, Anita SDSI:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 1:31 PM
To: Evans Locker, Ann SDSI:EX
Cc: Fieltsch, Raymond SDSI:EX; Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request: Globe and Mail/Bus Pass

Based on the assumption that the PWD Clients and Seniors request replacement cards at the rate, I can split the revenue using the % of PWD vs Senior clients for each FY, to determine the Net Expenditure.

This is how it would look for the Net Expenditure:

Type	FY 12/13	FY 13/14	FY 14/15	TOTAL
PWD	\$ 17,203,807.22	\$ 17,189,663.56	\$ 19,087,215.16	\$ 53,480,685.93
SENIORS	\$ 28,194,260.47	\$ 30,403,747.04	\$ 30,905,307.33	\$ 89,503,314.85
TOTAL	\$ 45,398,067.69	\$ 47,593,410.60	\$ 49,992,522.49	\$ 142,984,000.78

You could make the statement then of:

PWD is approx. \$17.2 Million (FY 12/13) \$17.2 Million (FY 13/14) and \$19 Million (FY 14/15)

Hope this helps further clarify.

Anita Pangborne-LaHue

Director
Performance Management, Contracts and Community Relations
Operations Support, Service Delivery Division
Phone #: 1-250-739-6603
Cell #: 1-250-667-4171

From: Evans Locker, Ann SDSI:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 1:10 PM
To: LaHue, Anita SDSI:EX
Cc: Fieltsch, Raymond SDSI:EX; Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX
Subject: FW: Media Request: Globe and Mail/Bus Pass
Importance: High

Hi Anita,

See below.

Thanks,
Ann

From: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 1:09 PM
To: Evans Locker, Ann SDSI:EX
Cc: MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX; Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX; Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request: Globe and Mail/Bus Pass

Great, thanks Ann.

Just to clarify, Len mentioned that the bulk of Bus Passes go to low-income seniors, not PWD's. He said something like \$17m (out of the roughly \$50m) was for PWD bus passes, and the rest for seniors. Is there any way to confirm that?

Thanks.

Sean

From: Evans Locker, Ann SDSI:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 1:04 PM
To: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX
Cc: MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX; Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX; Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request: Globe and Mail/Bus Pass

Hi Sean,

After factoring in the \$45 administration fee the cost of the annual bus pass for the last three years was \$45.4 million for 2012/13, \$47.5 million for 2013/14 and \$49.9 million for 2014/15.

We don't break down the revenue between PWD & Seniors, so I can't provide you with a Net Expenditure amount.

Thanks,
Ann

From: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 11:12 AM
To: Evans Locker, Ann SDSI:EX
Cc: MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX; Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX; Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request: Globe and Mail/Bus Pass

Hi Ann, hope things are going well in Vancouver.

Please see the media request below and the question from Wendy Stueck.

I know we've said publicly the BC Bus Pass costs government \$50m per year; am I safe to then say \$150m over the last three years?

And how much of that cost is for PWD's vs. low-income seniors?

Thanks kindly.

Sean Leslie
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation
(250) 356-1670(o)
(250) 893-4403(m)

Date/Time: February 18, 2016/9am

Deadline @ End of day

Media: Globe and Mail

Reporter: Wendy Stueck, wstueck@globeandmail.com, 604-631-6618

Topic: BC Bus Pass

Request: Sean,

Hi there - I called you a few moments ago about the statement from Minister Stilwell about support for people with disabilities.

I did refer to the government statement on Twitter, clarifying that the bus pass program is not cancelled.

However, there is still some concern about the cost of the bus pass having to come out of the increase. And I'm curious around the finances around it.

Would there be any chance of finding out the cost of the bus subsidy for people with disabilities over, say, the last three years?

Thanks.

Wendy Stueck | National Correspondent | Editorial

p: 604.631.6618 | f: 604.684.7956 | c: 604.340.2895 | e:

wstueck@globeandmail.com <<mailto:youremail@globeandmail.com>>

Suggested Response: s.13

Sean Leslie
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation
(250) 356-1670(o)
(250) 893-4403(m)

Evans Locker, Ann SDSI:EX

From: Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 1:51 PM
To: Evans Locker, Ann SDSI:EX
Subject: FW: finals: More support, more choices for people with disabilities
Attachments: 2016SDSI0005-000239.pdf

6

David Galbraith
Assistant Deputy Minister
Service Delivery Division
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation
Tel: 250.387.7032
fax: 250.387.2418
ONE PROVINCE, ONE TEAM

-----Original Message-----

From: Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 4:31 PM
To: Richmond, Valerie D SDSI:EX
Cc: Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX; Harrington, Molly SDSI:EX; Galbraith, David J SDSI:EX; Fieltsch, Raymond SDSI:EX; Ross, Ian SDSI:EX; Singbeil, Kelsey GCPE:EX; Blake, Kristen SDSI:EX; MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX
Subject: FW: finals: More support, more choices for people with disabilities

Final NR on rates attached - it has been issued.

Please refer to the files attached to this email. The following is the summary of the News Release

Permalink: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/10331>

News ID: NEWS-10331

NR Number: 2016SDSI0005-000239

NR Type: News Release

State: Planned

Planned Release Date: February 17, 2016 at 4:20 pm Lead Organization: Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation

Headline: More support, more choices for people with disabilities

This email was auto-generated.

For Immediate Release

2016SDSI0005-000239

Feb. 17, 2016

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation

NEWS RELEASE

More support, more choices for people with disabilities

VICTORIA - To create equity in the system the Province is investing \$170 million over the next three years to ensure about 100,000 people on disability assistance in B.C. will receive a rate increase of up to \$77 a month as of Sept. 1, 2016.

Included in this, the B.C. government is also providing people on disability assistance with more choice in how they receive transportation supports.

Currently, around half of the people with the Person with Disabilities (PWD) designation receive either a subsidized BC Bus Pass at a cost to the ministry of \$52 a month, or a special transportation subsidy equivalent to \$66 a month. The rest, particularly those living in smaller communities, receive no transportation support at all.

There is an inequity in the current system, and this change will bring fairness to the ministry's transportation supports.

Once the changes are in effect, all people with the PWD designation will receive up to \$77 cash per month, and they can decide how to spend it - they can purchase a subsidized bus pass - or use it for something else.

People on disability assistance can still access a subsidized bus pass through the ministry for \$52 per month plus the annual \$45 administration fee. However, in some communities, a bus pass costs less than that, and people may be better off purchasing a pass directly from BC Transit.

There are other initiatives in Budget 2016 that will help low-income families. The senior's \$1,000 Home Renovation Tax Credit has been extended to people with a disability. And with changes to MSP, an additional 335,000 people will see their premiums reduced, including 70,000 single parent families - and an additional 45,000 people will no longer pay MSP premiums at all.

The increase in disability assistance rates and the increased flexibility in transportation options build on Accessibility 2024 - government's ongoing commitment to make B.C. the most progressive jurisdiction in Canada for people with disabilities.

The rate increase also builds on a number of significant changes government has made to help people on income and disability assistance.

In 2015, government increased asset limits for people receiving disability assistance from \$5,000 to \$100,000 for individuals, and from \$10,000 to \$200,000 for couples.

People receiving disability assistance can also receive unlimited cash gifts with no impact on their assistance as long as it is within the asset limit.

B.C. was the first province to annualize earnings exemptions for people with disabilities, whose ability to work may fluctuate. They can now earn up to \$9,600 per year.

The Single Parent Employment Initiative was launched in September 2015, giving single parents on income or disability assistance the supports they need to overcome barriers to employment and build a better future for their families. Nearly 2,000 single parents are taking part in the initiative.

Child-support payments are now fully exempt for 3,200 families on income and disability assistance - and monthly income exemptions have doubled from \$200 to \$400 a month for families with children, and increased from \$300 to \$500 a month for families who have a child with a disability.

Quote:

Michelle Stilwell, Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation -

"We know that people with disabilities face extra challenges in their daily lives. That's why I'm pleased to see that in Budget 2016 we are able to provide an increase in our rates for people with disabilities while creating equity in our system of transportation supports. This increase also allows people to make their own choice on how to meet their transportation needs."

Quick Facts:

* People on disability assistance also receive free Pharmacare, premium-free MSP, medical equipment and supplies, and annualized earnings exemptions.

* B.C. is the only province to offer a subsidized bus pass to low-income seniors and persons with disabilities. About 90,000 people receive a B.C. Bus Pass each year, at a cost to government of about \$50 million.

* There is no change to the BC Bus Pass Program for low-income seniors. The ministry will continue to provide a subsidized pass to eligible seniors for the annual \$45 administration fee.

* Budget 2016 provides the ministry with an overall increase of \$456 million over three years to address caseload pressure, increase disability assistance rates and other supplementary benefits, and provide more funds to Community Living B.C.

Learn More:

To find out more about Accessibility 2024: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/about-the-bc-government/accessibility/accessibility-2024>

For more on the Single Parent Employment Initiative: <http://www.sdsi.gov.bc.ca/programs/spei.html>

Media Contact:

Sean Leslie
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation
250 356-1670

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2016SDSI0005-000239
Feb. 17, 2016

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation

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<http://www.sdsi.gov.bc.ca/programs/spei.html>

Media Contact:

Sean Leslie

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Social Development and Social
Innovation

250 356-1670

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