

## **Statement by the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation in response to NDP Climate Action Platform**

June 3, 2019 (New Westminster) – The Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation is pleased that the NDP's *Power to Change* platform released on May 31 includes a commitment to permanent, allocation-based federal funds for public transit.

Highlighting the importance of community-based investments, the NDP platform commits to creating “a permanent, direct, allocation-based funding mechanism to modernize and expand public transit” for Canadian cities. As part of the [Cure Congestion campaign](#), the Mayors' Council has called on all major federal parties to commit to a permanent Congestion Relief Fund that will allow for smarter long-term planning, and the ability of local governments to confidently forge ahead with major, transformative transit and transportation projects.

During meetings with Mayors' Council members in Ottawa last month, federal party leaders and Members of Parliament were receptive to the idea of permanent, dedicated funding for public transit, as a way to continue providing the new transit services and road improvements made possible by recent federal investments.

“The NDP's platform commitment to invest in communities and improve transportation through direct and predictable funding comes as a strong endorsement of the solutions proposed by the Mayors' Council in partnership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities,” said New Westminster Mayor Jonathan Cote, Chair of the Mayors' Council. “From the Canada Line to the Evergreen Line to the extension of the Millennium Line, successive federal governments have partnered with provincial and regional governments to deliver game-changing investments for our region. With demand for public transit growing at a record pace, we need to keep investing to avoid more congestion and overcrowding.”

The Mayors' Council has asked all major parties running in this election to respond to a [questionnaire](#) within our *2019 Election Platform* document, outlining their commitments to four key priorities of the Mayors' Council [#CureCongestion](#) campaign.

The Mayors' Council will continue to press all federal parties to join in the commitment to Cure Congestion by making clear commitments to long-term funding that will sustain federal investments in modern public transit now, and into the future.

The [Media Room](#) on the Cure Congestion website contains links to the Mayors' Council *2019 Election Platform*, news releases, localized fact sheets, backgrounders, and more.

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