



Official Opposition • l'Opposition officielle

Ontario NDP Caucus • Groupe parlementaire du NPD de l'Ontario

November 7, 2023

Premier Doug Ford

Legislative Bldg Rm 281,
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Premier Ford,

The hardworking people who operate and fix public transit systems in Ontario are hurting right now. We called them heroes in the pandemic, but they feel like “zeros” when it comes to compensation.

Two cities — Hamilton and Peterborough — are on the brink of transit strikes now because municipalities are short of the money required for a fair deal. Premier, you are in a position to help, and we urge you to act now.

The members of ATU 107 have a lockout/strike deadline of 12:01 am on November 9th. They have been at the bargaining table for weeks, but City of Hamilton officials are living in a context of less revenue after Bill 23. The same is true in Peterborough, where members of ATU Local 1320 face a lockout/strike deadline of November 18.

No worker wants to go on strike, and no reasonable employer wants to lock out the workers who make our communities function. But the province must ensure operating funds for transit are a priority so transit strikes can be avoided.

At the moment, as the Ontario Public Transit Association has said, there is a \$500 million gap between what municipalities receive to operate transit from Ontario, and what municipalities can finance themselves. Without urgent provincial investment, fares rise, and service declines. This is a “death spiral” that worsens public transit.

Ontario NDP Caucus Services

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The 2023 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review allocated \$5.4 billion for contingency funds, so we insist \$500 million of this amount be put towards the operation of public transit across Ontario. We also urge that the province return to the goal of 50% cost-sharing with municipalities towards operational costs for transit.

This investment will ensure the transit lifeblood of our neighbourhoods continues to function, and transit workers are given the compensation they deserve.

Sincerely,

Marit Stiles
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MPP for Davenport

Joel Harden
Critic, Transit and Active Transportation
MPP for Ottawa Centre

Jamie West
Critic, Labour, Training and Skills Development
MPP for Sudbury

Monique Taylor
MPP for Hamilton Mountain

Jeff Burch
Critic, Municipal Affairs
MPP for Niagara Centre

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MPP for Hamilton West - Ancaster - Dundas

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