

# Keep Transit Public.

## Keep Transit Public News: ATU Members Edition

December 2017

This week, the Keep Transit Public campaign has seen its first results from Metrolinx, but it has also been reminded that privatization is the greatest threat our public transit agencies face. At every turn, politicians are accepting the misinformed notion that the best way to reduce costs in transit is by turning parts or all of transit over to the private sector. Because of this ATU Locals across the province continue our fight to Keep Transit Public.



### Metrolinx Says HSR Can Operate LRT, But Doesn't Want it To

In their letter to the City of Hamilton, Metrolinx has agreed to allow the HSR the opportunity to operate the Hamilton LRT. This is in no doubt a huge step forward and a historic moment in the fight to keep transit public.

However, we have grave concerns about the manner in which Metrolinx has chosen to reveal their decision. First of all, we are disappointed to see that the province has removed the option of public sector maintenance from the table. This ignores the wishes of Hamilton City Council and

the residents of this city. Secondly, we are shocked and dismayed at the province's use of fear-mongering and misinformation in an attempt to intimidate the City of Hamilton into backing down.

### Will Council Be Bullied? Or Bought?

This Friday, immediately after the morning Council Meeting, Hamilton's LRT Sub-Committee will meet to discuss the letter from Metrolinx. City Council must respond by January 24th or Metrolinx will automatically return the project to the full privatization model. Join us to show support for Public Transit:

**When: Friday, December 1st, 9:30 a.m.**

**Where: Council Chambers, Hamilton City Hall, 71 Main St. W.**

**How: Wearing all the ATU and Keep Transit Public swag you have.**

We must stand with the Hamilton Council against threats to our city and we are confident that no councillor would allow provincial bullying and fear-mongering to change their vote.



## The Progressive Conservatives Vie to take over TTC Subway

This past weekend, the Ontario Progressive Conservatives released their 2018 election platform, highlighting their plan for transit in Ontario. Of note are the PC's plan to take control of the Toronto Subway system and contract the work back to the TTC and the PC's decision to continue privatizing transit through Public Private Partnerships. Like the Liberals, Patrick Brown's PCs will use P3s to hide the cost of transit expansions from the public books, ensuring that Ontarians will overpay for transit while profiting private companies.



In addition, just hours after the PCs released their platform, the Toronto Board of Trade called on the province to take complete control of transit in Ontario and dissolve local transit agencies. It's no surprise that Bay Street business interests want to end local transit agencies and turn them over to a P3-focused provincial body, since they are the only ones who benefit when transit is privatized.

## Mayor of Guelph Calls for Transit Privatization

Mayor Cam Guthrie has announced that the City of Guelph will review the feasibility of privatizing all or part of Guelph Transit. As always, ATU will be on the front line of the fight, protecting the good, middle-class union jobs that the public sector provides and demanding public ownership, operation and maintenance of transit so our community can continue to rely on safe, affordable and reliable transit.

## What More You Can Do

We will only succeed in keeping transit public if all of our members stand in solidarity and build public support to protect transit.

Please join the fight by:

- Calling your councillor and MPP today!
- Following us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/keeptransitpublic/](http://www.facebook.com/keeptransitpublic/) and sharing our updates with people you know.
- Volunteering with your local to hand out flyers and help people sign the petition.
- Reminding your friends and family to sign the petition at [keeptransitpublic.ca](http://keeptransitpublic.ca)

For more information please contact Dave Rosborough at [drosborough@atu.org](mailto:drosborough@atu.org) or 905-978-0863.