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London
CANADA

April 1, 2026

K. Paleczny
London Transit Commission

I hereby certify that the Municipal Council, at its meeting held on March 31, 2026, resolved:

That the following actions be taken with respect to the 1st Report of the Accessibility Community Advisory Committee, from the meeting held on February 12, 2026:

- a) the above-noted report BE RECEIVED; and,
- b) the communications, as appended to the Agenda, from I. Gillis and M.J. Belanger, with respect to paratransit issues, BE FORWARDED to the London Transit Commission for their information. (2.1/4/CPSC)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Schulthess', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

M. Schulthess
City Clerk
/jb

cc: Chair and Members, Accessibility Community Advisory Committee

Dear Committee,

As someone with lived experience of disability, I wish to add my voice to others of the community asking for consideration and accommodation regarding paratransit services for disabled persons.

In this specific instance, we are respectfully asking that a policy be adopted whereby disabled persons are allowed to transport items received at the food bank back to their domicile.

In the big picture, you may be aware that disabled persons are often caught in a financial double bind, as income opportunities are few and far between, and federal and provincial programs which provide income to disabled persons invariably do not even attain the poverty line.

As a consequence of being overrepresented in the impoverished demographic, persons with disabilities are more likely to need to rely on the food bank to meet their essential nutritional needs, and less likely to have access to personal accessible transportation suitable to convey them to destinations outside their domicile, e.g the food bank.

Predictably this means that persons in London (and elsewhere across Canada) will find themselves in a situation where they need to transport their foodstuffs home, and paratransit is the only viable option.

We face so many facets of adversity in our daily lives; if burdens can be relieved with certain changes in administrative policy then this is always welcome.

I hope these points bring to the fore the importance of public transport for the disabled, and the need for it to be truly inclusive for all residents of London.

I thank you for your sincere consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ian Gillis

I can't believe that I actually have to write this email. It's bad enough that people with disabilities are not treated with dignity by the province in Ontario. They are supported in such DEEP POVERTY that they have to drag their disabled bodies to the food bank by bus, and then to have the city of London hassle them because they have no other way of bringing their food home except by bus. What is wrong with you people. Unbelievable. Please grow a heart and let them take their food home by bus without threats of the police.
WOW

Mary Jean Belanger