

Subject: Re: An 'incompetence tax' on gas for transit - Aug 12 2002

Date: Mon, 12 Aug 2002 18:38:01 +0100 (BST)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

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CC: FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Greetings!

Will the 'Asper Press' print this? I doubt it, because Bombardier Inc. is good friends with the Federal Liberals and Bombardier owns SkyTrain. The Asper Press doesn't write negative stories about their friends or their friends' products!!!

Malcolm Johnston
Light Rail Committee

To: sunletters@pacpress.southam.ca

Sent: Monday, August 12, 2002 8:16 AM

Subject: An 'incompetence tax' on gas for transit - Aug 12 2002

Dear Editor:

So, Transport Minister David Collenette wants a further 'incompetence tax' on fuel to pay for urban transportation.

Taxing the auto driver may sound good but, in reality, the car generally is the better transportation mode. The concept of throwing billions of dollars at public transit hasn't worked because politicians and their bureaucrat masters do not have a clue about how to provide the public with cost-effective, affordable public transit. Tax dollars are spent on glitzy and hugely expensive 'rapid transit' projects rather than proven, affordable transit options.

SkyTrain is a prime example: the *Expo Line* - which, including upgrades, cost nearly \$2 billion to build - carries only about 110,000 passengers a day; the Calgary LRT (streetcar if you want) total cost to date is about \$600 million, yet it carries nearly 180,000 passengers a day! So, for the pleasure of riding [?] a "high-tech", "state-of-the-art", "world-class" driverless SkyTrain, BC taxpayers are paying well over \$100 million annually **more** than Alberta's taxpayers to subsidize the *rapid transit* debt servicing! To put it another way, to save about \$3 million in tram-driver wages, the BC taxpayer is paying over \$100 million more for driverless operation! This will only increase with the opening of the *Millennium Line*!

Money for public transit is welcome, but it's long past time to do more with **much** less money!

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