

21 March 2017



### **CUTA sends letter to Finance Minister Bill Morneau on Transit Tax Credit**

On March 7, 2017, CUTA sent a letter to Finance Minister Bill Morneau regarding the importance of the Federal Transit Tax Credit to the transit industry and its customers—Canadians from coast to coast. CUTA understands that the government is considering ways to simplify Canada’s tax code while maintaining measures that directly support the middle class. Based on some media reports, we also understand that the Government is considering the elimination of tax credits.

CUTA believes that the unprecedented level of investment in transit infrastructure announced in Budget 2016 and in the Fall Economic Update last November, should remain complemented by supportive fiscal policies such as the Transit Tax Credit. The Transit Tax Credit helps many transit users better afford commuting to work, running errands and accessing healthcare services. This benefit contributes to reducing the cost of transit use and is an important incentive for people considering taking the modal shift away from regular private car use and towards sustainable public transit.

You can read CUTA’s [full letter to Minister Morneau on CUTA’s website](#).

*For more information please contact [Jeff Mackey](#).*

### **UITP Summit: North American Transit Innovation – Call for Presenters**

CUTA and APTA will be actively showcasing innovative transit developments in North America at their booths in the North American Pavilion. We want to hear from you about the challenges, opportunities and ideas!

Take the time to submit a short description of the innovative ideas and projects you have done with a public transit agency, for the opportunity to present to transit leaders of today and tomorrow at [the Global Public Transport Summit 2017 in Montreal, May 14-17, 2017](#). If you would be interested in making a 8-10 minute presentation, please let us know by **April 7th**. Submit your description, with name and contact information of the proposed presenter to [conferences@cutaactu.ca](mailto:conferences@cutaactu.ca) and [register for the summit today!](#)

*For more information please contact [conferences@cutaactu.ca](mailto:conferences@cutaactu.ca).*

### **CUTA Corporate Leadership Awards – Deadline for Nominations Extended!**

If you missed the opportunity to submit a nomination for our Corporate Awards, you’re not too late! All nominations are now due **March 24th by 5pm (EST)**. Exceptional efforts and contributions deserve recognition. Learn more about [the awards categories](#) of Environment, Innovation, Marketing and Communications and Safety and Security and make sure to nominate a CUTA member for their contribution to the transit industry overall. [Nominate Today!](#)

*For further information please contact us at [conferences@cutaactu.ca](mailto:conferences@cutaactu.ca)*

## Learning Events Update

By popular request, CUTA is holding a [Transit Maintenance and Asset Management](#) course in **Red Deer, Alberta, April 24<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>**. This is the course for those supervisors who want to learn the broader management of a maintenance program. This is also the course for those who want to be able to demonstrate that those provincial and federal dollars are well spent and well managed.

CUTA will be holding a **Transit Planning** course in **Victoria, BC on July 24<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017** and in **Toronto from June 5<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>**. An in-depth course covering Development Requirements, Service Standards, and Intelligent Transportation Systems, and Performance Monitoring – you can register online at the [Course Description Page](#).

CUTA has posted more learning events for the year to our website. Is saving your transit system dollars by optimizing [Scheduling & Runcutting](#) your thing? Are you going to be thrust into the spotlight of [Labour Relations & Collective Bargaining](#)? We're taking registrations now for these Fall events.

## Customer Orientation Task Force -- Expressions of Interest

The [Customer Orientation Task Force](#), which has brought many powerful resources to the industry, is looking for systems to participate in: The Customer Experience

Are you interested in an easy to use (and administer), National, common measurement [tool to measure customer satisfaction](#)? A tool that would allow transit systems to communicate to stakeholders the great value our industry brings, and demonstrate that ridership levels are only one metric of success; a satisfied customer is another essential? Join the Customer Orientation Task Force and take part in this exciting program.

### Program Goals:

- Provide participating transit agencies and CUTA, with meaningful, direct customer feedback in a scientific format, so each agency can use that data to drive improved performance.
- Establish a benchmarking tool to learn from others and share success techniques to help drive similar results.
- Establish a national industry composite of transit customer satisfaction; to move the dialogue from simply being ridership based, to quality of customer experience.

*If your transit system is interested in being a part of the program, please email [training@cutaactu.ca](mailto:training@cutaactu.ca) by **March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Once we have assembled a list of interested systems, we will schedule a webinar to share the details of how we will implement this program.*

## Security Conference - Policing Moving Cities

The Metro Vancouver Transit Police is hosting a transit security conference, entitled Policing Moving Cities, from April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Vancouver, BC. The purpose of the conference is to educate attendees on how and why “moving cities” are unique and why they demand a unique style of policing. Topics covered will include: sex offending, mental illness and suicide, preventing and responding to terrorism, partnership opportunities between transit systems and local police, and optimum policing/security models. Please see [the full event details](#).

*Let CUTA know if you are planning to attend the event and are willing to share your learnings by contacting [Lauren Rudko](#) at extension 113.*

### **Fleet, Canadian Transit Fact Book, and Specialized Fact Book Data Collection**

CUTA's Research and Technical Services department has commenced its annual data collection program for our fact book publications: Fleet and On-board Equipment Fact Book, Canadian Transit Fact Book, and Canadian Specialized Transit Services Fact Book. CUTA transit system members should have already received their surveys. This year, our survey has been given a makeover for clarity and brevity and a user guide has been created to complement these changes and assist participants. Please complete your surveys and submit them to CUTA by **Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**. Some of the data collected will be published in our annual fact books later this fall.

*If you have any questions about our data collection program, please contact [Calvin Chia](#) at extension 112.*

### **Welcome to our New Member**

[University of British Columbia](#) – Ahmed Idris, Kelowna, British Columbia

*Keep your membership up to date in 2017. Contact [membership@cutaactu.ca](mailto:membership@cutaactu.ca).*