

For immediate release

April 9, 2020

Important Update from the BCITSA regarding the U-Pass

Burnaby, B.C. — Due to the ongoing effects of the public health emergency and global COVID-19 pandemic, post-secondary institutions and student associations like BCITSA have worked with TransLink to temporarily suspend the program as of May 1st. Work continues to secure refunds where possible in relation to April U-Passes.

Following discussions that include TransLink and the U-Pass BC Schools and student associations, we wish to announce that:

“U-Pass BC program suspended

- *Post secondary institutions and student associations have worked with TransLink to temporarily suspend the U-Pass BC program as of May 1st.*
- *The U-Pass BC program is offered to students under agreements in place between TransLink, participating colleges/universities and their associated student societies. Students pay for this pass through mandatory student fees.*
- *TransLink is continuing discussions with post-secondary school and student association representatives about potential refunds for students not using their April passes. Students not needing their April U-Pass are encouraged not to use it and to check their school, student association or TransLink’s U-Pass website for further updates.”*

BCITSA student leaders heard from students that this was a necessary solution to address declining usage. Members, just last fall, signified their ongoing support for the program with almost 90% approval to extend for five years - the Association shares this sentiment and will continue to champion and defend this invaluable program.

In light of the ongoing global pandemic and the suspension of on-campus instruction, the S.A. Board has endorsed this course of action in order to protect student interests, put money back in their pockets, and preserve the program going forward.

For additional details as they become available, please continue to visit BCITSA’s COVID-19 Info-Hub, [here](#). As additional information is released, please consult TransLink’s [U-Pass BC web page](#) and their [COVID-19 Precautions & news page](#).

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