I am writing as the Manager of UMCycle, the University of Manitoba Students' Union's bike shop on Fort Garry Campus. As a shop, we are dedicated to providing people with the resources and support they need to choose a sustainable and active mode of transportation. The goal of having a UPass in my eyes is the same. To provide the resources, support and incentive for students to choose a sustainable and active mode of transportation. That is what I would like to speak to today; the community benefits of the UPass being an active and sustainable mode of transportation.

The benefit of a UPass as compared to all other transit ridership programs is that because every student in an institution (with certain exceptions) pays into the UPass program, there is a large incentive to use the UPass and forgo driving to school. In fact, I have heard of a number of students who have gotten rid of their cars altogether because of the UPass. Because all the students already pay for the service so many of them feel that it just isn't cost effective for them not to use it. This is the true genius of the UPass program; It has the ability to change peoples' behaviour. It has the ability to mode shift. To shift people from transportation by single occupant vehicle to transportation by public transit. It has the ability to get people to ride bus that wouldn't have before. It is also getting people to be bus riders at a time when they may be deciding what transportation to use for the rest of their working lives.

I suppose that, to many people who aren't students, this might not seem like a big deal. So what? Why does it matter that more students are riding bus? It matters because of the huge benefits to our community that increases in active and sustainable modes of transportation bring.

Public transit is a form of active transportation. On the City of Winnipeg website it is acknowledged that "[Active transportation] can also involve combining modes such as cycling and walking with public transit". We see that happening all the time with students. In fact, I would say that the majority of transit users combine walking and/or cycling with public transit. As per the City of Winnipeg website describing active transportation, there are many benefits to individuals and to the community of active transportation. These include:

- Improving physical and mental health
- Reducing traffic congestion
- Reducing long-term stresses on the healthcare system by encouraging healthy lifestyles
- Improving air quality
- Reducing costs associated with driving like fuel, parking and maintenance

Public transportation is also a sustainable mode of transportation. In fact in a Facebook post from Councillor Matt Allard while he was getting ready to participate in the September 27th Climate Strike with his family, Councillor Allard states "On transportation, we need mode shift, which is the move from the single passenger automobile trip which is about 90% of all private vehicle trips. Our climate change action plan has a goal of moving to 50% mode shift by 2050. Mode shift is the work we have to do as a city and as citizens to move to increase our number of

passenger trips, transit trips, walking and biking." With the UPass we have a program that does just that and yet it is being cut as part of the draft multi-year budget that is being considered right now.

In fact the City of Winnipeg is so concerned about climate change that they created a 2018 Report on "Winnipeg's Climate Action Plan: Planning for Climate Change – Acting for People". But with the proposed cut to the UPass they are going against their own Climate Action report which mentions transit 376 times as part of Winnipeg's Climate Action solutions. The report states that "…the City strategically integrates climate action within both land use and transportation decision-making." I would argue that canceling the UPass demonstrates that the city is not integrating climate action within transportation decision-making.

It is clear that in making a budget choices must be made. The City of Winnipeg is demonstrating that, when choices need to be made, that it will not honour the commitments it has made to its citizens to maintain and improve their quality of life and tackling large and important issues such as climate change.