Good afternoon Councillors,

When I was 18, I moved to the Fort Garry Campus to start my bachelor of arts, and I lived on campus for my first two years. For my first year I paid around 600 dollars, to park my car on campus. However, The U-Pass made more sense - wherever I was going in the city, I wouldn't have to pay for parking, I wouldn't have to worry about driving there and feeling unsafe, and I wouldn't have to worry about paying for gas. To a student who works 10 hours a week while being a full time student and actively involved in extra curricular, this was huge. That's why in my second year, I ended up revoking my Parking Pass, and left my car at home for the second half of the year. Simply, the 600 dollars was not worth it when the bus pass made it so much more affordable, AND it was built into my tuition. I pay for my tuition with student loans, and therefore pays for my Pass and my tuition, so that I can work just enough to cover rent, and the rest I can focus energy on my studies - the reason I came here, to Winnipeg, in the first place.

For residence students, the U-Pass is a concrete essential. And this is coming from a student who is lucky enough to have access to a car. Now that I live off campus, I still use the Pass to bus from Osbourne every day to the Fort Garry Campus. It's a 20 minute bus ride, and I do not have to worry even a little bit about paying for parking during the year. But were the U-Pass to be revoked? And I had to choose between paying for a Parking pass, versus paying for parking? Financially, The choice would be simple. It's roughly 600 dollars of parking versus 640 dollars of a UPass. To me, the convience of not having to wait for the unreliable Winnipeg Transit system makes this worth the extra cost of gas. I care greatly about the environment, and would love to continue to take the bus to school everyday, but may not be able to afford it if I have to pay the ridiculously proposed "subsidized transit pass".

To the councillors who will decide this, and specifically to Brian Bowman. I think this proposal for an 80 dollar a month pass is pathetic. This is not the rate you proposed to UMSU, and it's simply not affordable. By passing this new budget, you are playing into a toxic capitalistic system, and barricading education for those who come from lower income families, those who move to Winnipeg to attend our schools here, and those who simply do not have the financial means to pay 640 dollars a year to get to the many commuter campuses in Winnipeg. You should be ashamed that you continually cut services for folks who are vulnerable. That's all. Thank you.