

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sheridan Student Union and Sheridan College Invite Students to Participate in U-Pass Referendum

October 16, 2018 (Oakville, ON): From November 26-30, all full-time students at Sheridan will be asked to vote in a Transit Referendum, jointly hosted by the Sheridan Student Union (SSU) and Sheridan College. The vote will determine whether or not students are in support of a Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass).

In response to student feedback, Sheridan Student Union (SSU) and Sheridan College have been examining transit options to present to Sheridan students. They are seeking student input through a Transit Referendum in order to determine whether or not a Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass) would best suit the needs of the Sheridan community.

As the result of considerable discussion with Oakville Transit, Brampton Transit (including Züm) and Mississauga (MiWay) Transit, Sheridan Student Union is pleased to offer Sheridan College students the opportunity to consider the implementation of a Universal Transit Pass. The U-Pass would allow for unlimited ridership on public transit routes operated by the three municipal transit authorities in Brampton, Mississauga, and Oakville. This proposed U-Pass will be funded through a non-refundable student ancillary fee that will be charged to eligible full-time students.

Should students vote in favour of a U-Pass, implementation would take place in September 2019, and the existing Sheridan Shuttle service that provides inter-campus transportation will conclude operations. If students reject the U-Pass, another referendum will be held to assess student interest in maintaining or improving the existing Sheridan Shuttle during the Fall 2019 term.

"It is critically important for students to participate in this referendum," says Enrique Ponce, President of the Sheridan Student Union. "It is only by directly asking the people we serve that we will get a clear sense of how Sheridan College students wish to define the future of student transit on our campuses."

"We appreciate the willingness of the three transit authorities to work collaboratively to bring a Universal Pass option to fruition that would enable students to travel seamlessly across municipal boundaries" adds Wayne Steffler, Vice President Finance and Administration at Sheridan College. "Seeking sustainable ways to improve services for our students is always a priority."

For the results to be binding, 15% of full-time students must take part in the Transit Referendum. The SSU and the College will be promoting the Transit Referendum heavily in the hopes of driving significant voter turn-out.

The SSU and the College aim to provide students with as much information as possible to help them make an informed choice when the vote takes place. A web landing page has been established at <https://www.thessu.ca/referendum> which will house a continually

updated FAQ resource. A number of in-person forums are also being planned for November where students will be able to have their questions answered by the SSU, the College and the transit authorities. More details will be released in the coming weeks on the Referendum landing page.

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About the SSU:

The Sheridan Student Union (SSU) is an organized body that represents the full-time and part-time students of Sheridan College. Governed by 12 elected student leaders, the SSU strives to unite the student body and improve the student experience through programs and services and is responsible for advocating and being a voice for Sheridan students. www.thessu.ca

About Sheridan:

Founded in 1967, Sheridan has grown from a local college of 400 students to one of Ontario's leading postsecondary institutions, educating approximately 23,000 full-time and 18,500 continuing and part-time studies students every year, on three campuses in Oakville, Brampton and Mississauga. An award-winning institution, Sheridan attracts students from across Canada and around the world. Sheridan's 170,000 alumni play a critical role in shaping the future of our society in the fields of arts, business, community service, health, technology, and the skilled trades.

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