



TransLink
400 - 287 Nelson's Court
New Westminster, BC V3L 0E7
Canada
Tel 778-375-7500
www.translink.ca

South Coast British Columbia
Transportation Authority

February 27, 2014

Mr. Michael Binnion
Chairman of the Board, Canadian Taxpayers Federation
265-438 Victoria Ave E
Regina, SK S4N 0N7

By E-Mail: admin@taxpayer.com

Mr. Binnion:

RE: SOUTH SURREY PARK AND RIDE FACILITY

TransLink takes exception with the egregious and erroneous *Teddy Waste Award* news release issued by the Canadian Taxpayer Federation on February 26, 2014.

TransLink does not own, nor did we build or pay for the South Surrey Park and Ride parking lot expansion in question. The property, on which the expanded lot sits, is owned and has been developed by the Government of BC for transit users. The additional parking was developed in response to local government and community concerns about serious daily overcrowding at our original South Surrey Park and Ride facility. TransLink supports this investment; it is a creative use of otherwise stranded public property, and will serve the needs of transit users for the long term.

We also found your comments criticizing us for moving to a user-pay policy on parking to be incongruous with your criticism for spending taxpayer dollars.

TransLink introduced a system-wide user-pay pricing structure for all of its parking facilities across Metro Vancouver in 2013. Pay parking recovers the operational costs associated with Park and Ride facilities and ensures that these costs are covered by TransLink customers who use the facility. Our objective is to reduce the level of subsidy that taxpayers provide to transit users who use and benefit from our park and ride facilities.

Pay parking at this location has been in effect for less than four months and we expect that it will take time for travel and usage patterns to develop.

The Canadian Taxpayer Federation's careless disregard for the facts resulted in significant erroneous news coverage at a national level that does a disservice to the reputations of all parties involved – including yours – and erodes public trust.

Ian Jarvis
Chief Executive Officer

copy: Mr. Gregory Thomas
Federal Director, Canadian Taxpayers Federation
Varette Building, 1915-130 Albert St
Ottawa, ON K1P 5G4
federal.director@taxpayer.com