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BC NDP
320 - 34 W 7th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
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Sent via email

October 22, 2026

United Taxi Federation of BC
info@utfbc.ca

Re: Province-Wide Passenger Transportation Petition

Dear Mr. Jasbir Nijjar, and members of the United Taxi Federation of BC,

Thank you for reaching out to us at the BC NDP during this critical moment for British Columbians. We appreciate the opportunity to respond by way of this letter, and hope that the information provided helps provide your members with clarity during the election season.

Taxi drivers provide a vital service across British Columbia, especially for seniors and people with disabilities who rely on safe, dependable transportation. We recognize the serious pressures facing your industry, from rising operating costs to competitive imbalance, and want to reaffirm our government's commitment to supporting your sector.

To protect professional standards and fair competition, the BC NDP is committed to maintaining the Class 4 commercial driver's licence requirement for both taxi and ride-hailing drivers. Class 4 keeps a level playing field across the passenger transportation sector while maintaining high safety standards for all passengers and drivers alike. The BC Conservatives, by contrast, put eliminating the Class 4 requirement in their party policy. If they form government, you can’t trust them to keep Class 4, which would undermine passenger safety and threaten driver livelihoods.

The BC NDP’s plan to cut gas prices by up to 30¢ per litre will help ease operating expenses for hardworking drivers. We will directly support taxi drivers and the transportation sector by suspending 10¢ per litre in provincial fuel taxes and

regulating oil companies' profit margins. That's about $20 in savings every time you fill up at the pump.

A BC NDP government will also freeze car insurance rates for another three years, building on seven years of frozen rates. That gives drivers and operators long-term predictable costs and financial stability. The BC Conservatives' plan would double ICBC rates, a cost that drivers can't afford.

When the provincial government buys goods and services, we want that money to go to BC and Canadian companies first. That means more jobs here and more money staying in our economy. This includes ensuring that public bodies, including regional health authorities, prioritize B.C. -owned and Canadian-owned businesses when procuring transportation services.

Before the election, our government had consultation work underway with the taxi sector on this and other priorities. If re-elected, we will continue this work to support BC businesses, the taxi sector, and all British Columbians. The Ministry of Transportation and Transit has been preparing for further targeted engagement to inform decisions on potential legislative and regulatory amendments, with the goal of providing equity in the regulatory environment between taxi and ride hail.

We have made progress together:

- revised criminal record check requirements
- changed the rate structure to give drivers more control over pricing; and
- provided tens of millions of dollars in funding to help taxi drivers maintain and
- operate wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

We are also moving forward on allowing taxi operators to offer app-based booking and payments.

More broadly, we are committed to improving the regulatory framework governing passenger transportation and finding ways to benefit everyone involved in the system – passengers, drivers, and communities. We agree that the current issues facing the system, as outlined in the UTFBC's Petition, include more than providing equity between taxi and ride hail, and the review currently underway has a broader focus for this reason. We look forward to continuing our work to build a passenger transportation system that is fair, safe, accessible, and sustainable for everyone.

The BC Conservatives' plans would deregulate and destroy the taxi sector, starting with eliminating the Class 4 requirement. The BC NDP record shows we've listened and taken action. We have more work to do, and we can't do it without you. Together, we know we can build a fair, stable, and prosperous future for B.C. 's taxi industry.

Thank you again for your leadership and direct engagement.

-End-