



Date: Thursday, November 1, 2018

To: Ryerson University Election Procedures Committee

Julia Shin Doi, Chair  
Jennifer Hicks, Alumni Representative and Committee Secretary  
Ron Babin, RFA Representative  
Giselle Basanta, Senior Legal Counsel and Assistant Secretary  
Ram Ganesh, RSU Representative  
Joseph Zboralski, Staff Representative

From: Catherine Redmond, Returning Officer

Re: **RU-Pass Referendum 2018**

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**The RU-Pass Referendum 2018 has succeeded.**

**The YES votes met the 50% +1 threshold to determine the outcome of the referendum.**

## SUMMARY

On April 26, 2018 the Board of Governors of Ryerson University approved the holding of a referendum among all full-time undergraduate and graduate students asking for their support to create a new student levy to secure Ryerson's participation in U-Pass, a new low-cost ridership program with the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC).

Voting for the **RU-Pass Referendum 2018** was conducted over four days, October 29, 2018 to November 1, 2018. Of the 38,134 eligible voters, 16,331 cast a ballot: 10,158 were marked YES and 6,079 were marked NO (94 voters declined to indicate a preference).

The **RU-Pass Referendum 2018** has determined that a sufficient number of full-time undergraduate and graduate students are in favour the creation of a Ryerson Universal Transit Pass (RU-Pass) fee of \$282.00 per semester (\$280.00 for RU-Pass and \$2.00 for Ryerson administrative fee), applicable in the fall and winter terms, for a total of \$564.00 per year, which would provide unlimited travel on Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) services, adjusted annually by no more than five percent in accordance with administrative and transit costs, beginning in September 2019.

**TABULATION OF VOTES**

<b>VOTING RESULTS</b>	
<b>Eligible voters</b>	<b>38,134</b>
<b>Ballots submitted</b>	<b>16,331</b>
<b>YES votes</b>	<b>10,158</b>
<b>NO votes</b>	<b>6,079</b>
<b>Votes cast</b>	<b>16,237</b>
<b>Declined to vote</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Participation rate</b>	<b>42.8%</b>

**INFORMATION PUBLISHED IN THE RU-PASS REFERENDUM 2018**

**BACKGROUND**

A U-Pass is a fare pass program offered to students who are enrolled in a postsecondary institution. The cost of a U-Pass is based on current modal split (transit vs non-transit) and is designed to keep the TTC revenue cost neutral, both today and in the future. Two of the main objectives of a U-Pass are 1) to increase access to transit by lowering the cost to travel and 2) grow transit ridership. To lower the cost of the pass the program requires mandatory student participation and ensures the financial impact for the TTC is cost neutral. The cost of a U-Pass is included in the student fees collected by the institution and reimbursed to the TTC. The adoption of a U-Pass at an institution is dependent on a referendum of the student union to allow for the inclusion of the pass cost in the student fees.

**PROPOSAL**

The Ryerson Election Procedures Committee will hold a referendum, amongst full-time undergraduate and graduate students to seek approval for the creation of a fee of \$282.00 per semester, applicable in the fall and winter terms, for a total of \$564.00 per year, to fund the cost of a Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass) starting in September 2019, to be paid by all students enrolled in full-time programs. Students enrolled in the spring/summer term would have the option to opt into the U-Pass for that term as well. The compulsory fee is to be adjusted by no more than 5% annually to provide for any increase in administrative or transit costs. While U-Pass is a universal term, it will be rebranded locally as “RU-Pass” for internal Ryerson purposes.

**QUESTION**

**Do you agree to the creation of a Ryerson Universal Transit Pass (RU-Pass) fee of \$282.00 per semester (\$280.00 for RU-Pass and \$2.00 for Ryerson administrative fee), applicable in the fall and winter terms, for a total of \$564.00 per year, which would provide unlimited travel on Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) services, adjusted annually by no more than five percent in accordance with administrative and transit costs, beginning in September 2019?**