

*The McMaster Students Union*

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE



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For over 20 years, the McMaster Students Union (MSU) and the Graduate Students Association (GSA) have worked in partnership with the Hamilton Street Rail (HSR) to provide students with HSR bus passes. Each pass is valid for unlimited rides on the HSR throughout the academic year (September through August). Every three years, the contract is renewed between the MSU and HSR and the finalized agreement is sent to referendum, allowing students to vote on their preference in January, coinciding with the MSU Presidential election. The last referendum occurred in January 2017, and during that referendum, students voted in favour for a fall/winter and summer pass with extend service at peak times during the school week. As a result of that referendum, all students currently have access to unlimited HSR trips through their transit ancillary fee.

Additionally, since renewal in 2017, the MSU has advocated for a better transit experience and lead the

evolution of the bus pass, which began as a separate card and now utilizes the PRESTO system. The MSU is continually working to improve the student experience of using the HSR. As such, now that the contract is to be renewed again in January 2020, I am conducting a feedback survey to gather info on how students use the HSR. The short survey is comprised of 12 questions and takes approximately five minutes to complete. The goal of this survey is to be able to use the personalized experiences of students to help inform the upcoming renewal discussions.

**“... as a result of past MSU advocacy, we now have the 51-University line running through campus every 20 minutes from September to April.”**

Collecting data on student HSR experiences helps to identify areas or stops that need improvements and provides information on commute times. The data can be used to ensure there are enough buses running, thus reducing the average wait time. For example, as a result of past MSU advocacy, we now have the 51-University line running every 20 minutes through campus from September to April. Hearing feedback and suggestions for how your HSR experience could improve can help guide key areas of focus for contract renewal.

Ultimately, this survey is a great opportunity to have your voice heard and consequently impact students' experiences on the HSR. Visit

[msumcmaster.ca/hsr](http://msumcmaster.ca/hsr) to complete the survey until October 20. Completion of the survey will enter you into a contest to win one of ten Union Market gift cards for \$10. If you would like to provide additional feedback or have

any questions, feel free to reach out via email at [vpfinance@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:vpfinance@msu.mcmaster.ca), stop by my office in MUSC 201, or visit the Board of Directors' rotating office hours - which you can find by following [@msu\\_mcmaster](https://www.instagram.com/msu_mcmaster) on Instagram.



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text "MSU" to 71441

The President's Page is a space sponsored and used by the McMaster Students Union (MSU) Board of Directors (BoD) to communicate with the student body. It functions to highlight the Board's projects, goals, and agenda for the year, as well as the general happenings of the MSU.



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