

CARE Transit 4 Teens sway UBCM endorsement for free under-18 transit

Grade 11 Fulton students Haylee Andal (middle), Jade Ha (right) are thrilled their Climate Action Ripple Effect (CARE) Transit 4 Teens project was instrumental in the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) recent endorsement of free transit for youth under 18. UBCM support carries significant weight as the endorsement heads to the province for official approval.



Following their award-winning performance at the CARE Student Summit last spring, Haylee and Jade decided to share widely what they'd learned about the benefits of free youth ridership. After presenting to Vernon council, School District 22 (SD22) trustees, and local MLA Harwinder Sandhu, they met with the BC Transportation minister and Environment & Climate Strategy minister. They also provided province-wide training for youth across B.C. about the benefits of free transit ridership for youth under 18.

“We are so proud and excited for Haylee and Jade,” says SD22 superintendent Karla Mitchell. “Their initiative will have a tangible positive impact on the lives of youth as well as demonstrate how each of us can be an advocate for climate action. “

As for the CARE connection to this exciting story, program facilitator and Fresh Outlook Foundation CEO Jo de Vries says, “This is a perfect example of how this groundbreaking student climate education and community engagement program can mobilize lasting change in Vernon and beyond. And we’re just getting started!”

Planning is well underway for CARE next spring in School Districts 22 and 23 (Central Okanagan), with pioneering student learning approaches and enriched community mentorship opportunities.

“If you care about kids and climate,” adds de Vries, “we’d love to have you join our growing team of experts and advocates from all sectors who are guiding the next generation of climate advocates and activists.”

If you’re interested in being a CARE mentor, please contact jo@freshoutlookfoundation.org.



TRANSIT 4 TEENS: Grade 11 Vernon students Haylee Andal (middle) and Jade Ha (right) worked with UBCO professor and climate activist Mary Stockdale to build a project that promoted free transit for youth under 18. Their award-winning recommendations were recently endorsed by the Union of BC Municipalities, which would allow under-18s to ride all B.C. Transit and TransLink services free of charge.

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