

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **NDP RENEWS CALL FOR SKYTRAIN SECURITY AFTER ANOTHER ATTACK**

**VICTORIA** – In light of the latest brutal attack at the Nanaimo SkyTrain station, the Campbell government and TransLink must stop dragging their feet on implementing improved security measures, Adrian Dix, MLA for Vancouver-Kingsway, said today.

“When are the Campbell government and TransLink going to take the steps needed to ensure the safety of transit passengers?” asked Dix. “Too many people have gotten hurt, but still the government is turning a blind eye. Action must be taken now.”

Last Tuesday a teenage girl was swarmed and threatened at Nanaimo Station. According to TransLink, the surveillance camera at the station was not working because of a technical glitch.

“This attack took place inside the station. TransLink has to take responsibility for the safety of passengers,” said Dix. “There is no doubt that there needs to be a live security person at every station. Only that will deter such attacks and ensure people in trouble get the assistance they need quickly.”

In November the NDP laid out a 10-point plan to address safety concerns at SkyTrain stations. Included in that list was the need for each station to have at least one security personal on site at all times, improve lighting at the stations, and implement a pilot “safe-walk” program for five high-risk stations.

“TransLink is telling people that the system works and is safe, but clearly that is not the case,” said Mike Farnworth, NDP Public Safety Critic. “In this unfortunate circumstance, a young girl was beaten and her attackers will avoid prosecution for a serious crime that took place right in front of their broken video system.”

“The security of transit passengers must come first,” said Dix. “Carole James and the NDP understand that. How long will it take for the Campbell government to get it?”

#### **Background:**

On November 12, 2007, Adrian Dix and Mike Farnworth called on Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon to take the following immediate steps:

1. Increase the number of SkyTrain police by 50%, with the goal of having one security person at every SkyTrain station while the line is operating.
2. Provide additional after-hours security at all stations.
3. Place primary focus on security rather than fare evasion.
4. Build new turnstiles now with direct grant from provincial government rather than re-directing Translink resources to private sector scheme.
5. Implement a pilot walk-home program for at least five high-risk stations.
6. Expand the Joyce-Collingwood pink-whistle program.
7. Conduct full review of lighting at SkyTrain stations.
8. Increase sponsorship of community gardens and other amenities at SkyTrain stations.
9. Support the bus drivers campaign to implement stiffer criminal penalties for attacks on transit personnel.
10. Restore support for Victims’ services and anti-violence against women programs and women’s centres.