

Updates to TTC transit rights in Toronto

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. EST

Speakers:

Nico Nothwehr, Workshop Coordinator, TTCriders

Chloe Tangpongprush, Volunteer, TTCriders



Land Acknowledgement

CLEO acknowledges that our office is located on the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat. This land is now also home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. This area of Tkaronto, also known as Toronto, is covered by Treaty 13 signed by the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Williams Treaties signed by multiple Mississauga and Chippewa First Nations.

We acknowledge the ongoing impacts of colonization, anti-Indigenous racism, and white supremacy on which this city and our legal system are built. We are all Treaty people and we commit to working in solidarity towards truth and reconciliation.



CLEO Resources

Steps to Justice – free legal information

- stepstojustice.ca

Guided Pathways – help completing legal forms

- stepstojustice.ca/guided-pathways-home/

CLEO publications – free print resources

- cleo.on.ca

CLEO Connect – training for community workers

- cleoconnect.ca



What can you expect today?

- 90 minutes (2 presenters and 2 Q and A).
- The webinar may contain legal information. As a reminder, this is not legal advice. The information is current as of today's date, April 1, 2026.
- Links to the recording, slides, and handout will be sent by email to all registrants within a few days.
- ASL interpretation is available today. Subtitles (closed captioning) have also been enabled.



Department of Justice
Canada

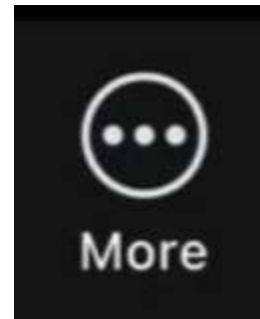
Enabling Closed Captioning



To use the Closed Captioning feature, click on the icon with two C's in your Zoom controls:



If you don't see this icon, try clicking on the More icon with three dots:



Speaker Introduction



Nico Nothwehr, Workshop Coordinator, TTCriders

Chloe Tangpongprush, Volunteer, TTCriders

CLEO x TTCriders

April 1, 2026

Nico Nothwehr and Chloe Tangpongprush



Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Know Your Transit Rights
3. Q&A
4. Expansion of Bill 6 to Transit
5. Fair Pass Program
6. Q&A
7. Wrap-up

Introduction: About TTCriders



Know Your Transit Rights

The Know Your Transit Rights project

- Public legal education project that includes workshops and written resources
- Created in response to violent confrontations by Provincial Offences Officers and Special Constables
- Issues of discrimination and racism in TTC fare enforcement and Use of Force policy
- We want to see an end to fare enforcement



Know: Who am I dealing with?



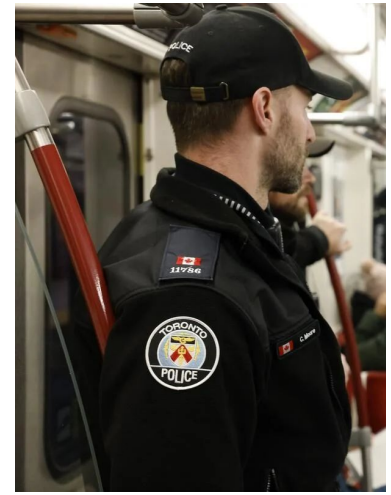
Operator



**Provincial
Offences Officer**



**Special
Constable**



Toronto Police

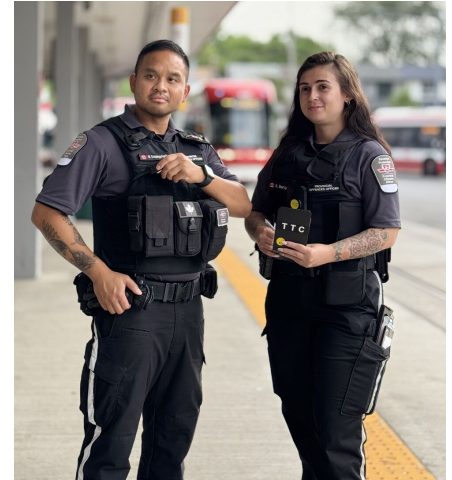
Know: TTC Operators

- Drive buses, streetcars, and subways
- Posted at subway stations
- Their role involves advertising fares but not enforcing fares. They cannot deny you service if you do not pay.



Know: Provincial Offences Officers

- Do fare compliance, issue tickets, and provide education on fares
- Circulate on streetcars and LRT, in bus and streetcar bays, and in subway stations, often near the fare gates
- Sometimes in plainclothes
- Carry body worn cameras, which must be turned on while interacting with transit users



Your rights with Provincial Offences Officers

- Provincial Offences Officers can issue official warnings and tickets for fare evasion and some other reasons.
- They **must have body cameras on** while interacting with riders
- If you use a special fare (senior, student, etc.), they can ask for your ID and fine you if you do not comply.
- They **cannot** search, arrest, or detain you.
- They **cannot** use force, except in self-defence or to assist Special Constables or Police.
- They **cannot** refuse to tell you their name or badge number.
- You can take photos and videos of Provincial Offences Officers.



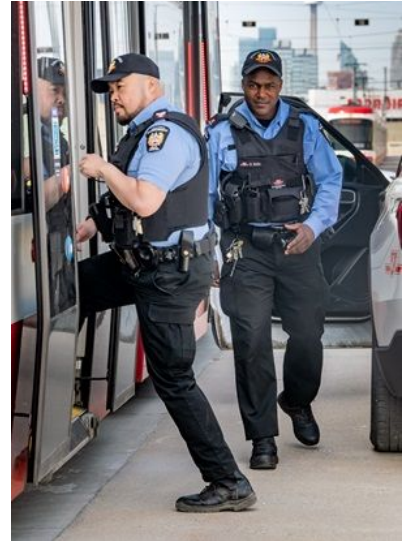
Know: TTC Special Constables

- Responsible for enforcing fares, responding to emergencies, and providing law enforcement on TTC property
- Have police powers ***while on TTC property*** and the ability to issue tickets
- Located most often inside stations but also circulate on streetcars, buses, and subways
- Sometimes in plainclothes
- Carry body worn cameras, which must be turned on while interacting with transit users



Your rights with TTC Special Constables

- Special Constables **can search, arrest, or detain you** in certain circumstances.
 - Ask “Am I being detained or arrested?” If no, you do not have to speak with the Special Constable, you can refuse a search, and you can leave.
- They **must have their body camera on** while interacting with riders
- If you use a special fare (senior, student, etc.), they can ask for your ID and fine you if you do not comply.
- They can use force but only as a **last resort**.
- They **cannot** refuse to tell you their name or badge number.
- You can take photos and videos of Special Constables.



Know: How to exercise your rights with TTC Special Constables

If stopped by a Special Constable:

Am I being detained or arrested?

No.

You are free to leave!

If a Special Constable asks to search you:

Am I being arrested for detained? Do you have a search warrant?

No.

Then I do not consent to a search.

You are free to leave!

If stopped by a Special Constable:

Am I being detained or arrested?

Yes.

In this case, you are not free to leave.

What am I being arrested for?

I won't answer any questions until I have spoken with a lawyer.

The only information you need to provide is your name and date of birth.

If a Special Constable asks to search you:

Am I being arrested for detained? Do you have a search warrant?

Yes.

Special Constables can legally search you if you are being arrested or detained or if they have a search warrant.

If you consent to a search, then it is a legal search, even if the special constables do not have a search warrant and are not arresting or detaining you.

Know: Toronto Police Officers

- There are 8 Neighbourhood Community Officers stationed between Union and Eglinton stations on Line 1.
- Ride the subway and patrol stations, with a **priority on Union and Bloor-Yonge stations.**
- They carry weapons, including **firearms**, and body worn cameras.
- May be in plainclothes
- Additional Toronto Police Services officers may be called onto the TTC if someone calls 9-1-1.

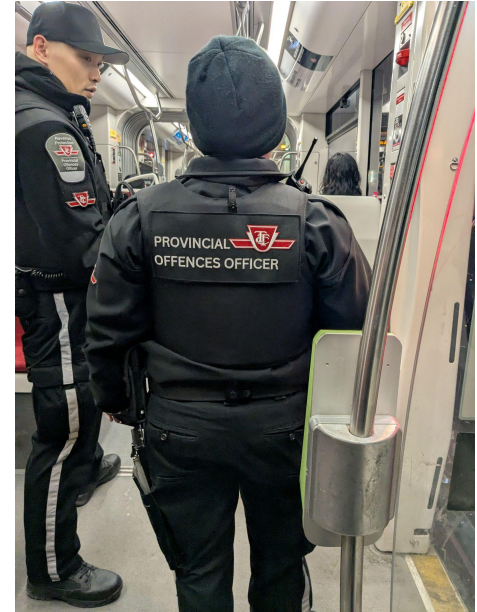


Know: General information about TTC fare enforcement

- Operators are not responsible for enforcing fares - an operator cannot physically prevent you from boarding a vehicle if you have not paid.
- If your 2-hour transfer ends while you are on a TTC vehicle, you have the right to complete your trip. If you need to transfer to another vehicle, you will have to pay an additional fare.
- You must identify yourself to Provincial Offences Officers or Special Constables when they are giving you a notice/ticket. You can either tell them your full name and address or provide ID with this information.
 - You must carry ID if you use special fares (e.g. senior or student).
- You have the right to know the name and badge number of police officers, special constables, and Provincial Offences Officers.

Role Play: Interacting with TTC Provincial Offences Officers

Scenario #1: You are approached by a TTC Provincial Offences Officer and asked to show your Proof of Payment.



TTC FINES

TTC data and evidence shows:

- Fare enforcement targets Black and Indigenous people more than other groups of people
- 50% of people pay when asked
- No evidence that enforcement recovers all lost revenue
- Lose a day's wages to fight your ticket
- TTC fine money goes to City, not TTC budget

More about **TTC FINES**

Title	Set Fine	Total Payable
Refuse to pay fare	\$195	\$235
Invalid Fare Media	\$345	\$425
Refuse to give ID or Fare	\$345	\$425
Invalid ID Card	\$195	\$235
Sale, exchange, or give away of transfer	\$345	\$425

Fines go to collections agency if not paid, which has impact on your credit score

What Happens if I get a **Ticket?**

Riders have 15 days to pick from 3 options:

1. Early resolution: Before a ticket goes to court, riders can go for an early resolution, where you can try lowering their fine by meeting with a TTC prosecutor in office.
2. Plead guilty: If you don't opt for the resolution, you can pay your full fine online, in court, or by mail.
3. Trial: If you do not plead guilty, it goes to trial.

What happens if you do not pay your TTC ticket?

Your fine will get sent to a collections agency. If you do not pay it can impact your credit rating.

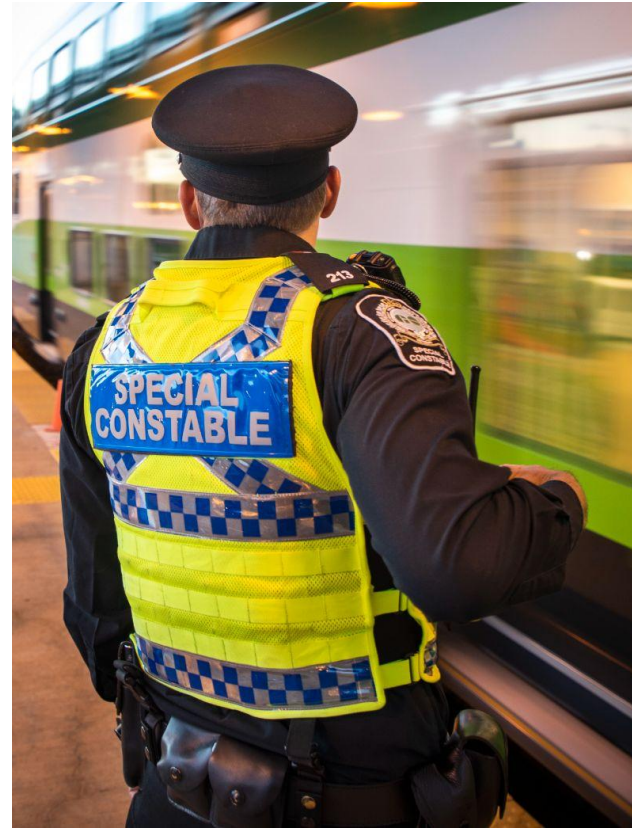
Riding on **GO Transit**

GO has their own system of enforcement

Fines

- Start at \$25 and increase with subsequent occurrences
- Are administrative penalties, not provincial offences

Refer to further resources on appealing fines on GO by visiting our webpage



RESOURCE: Know Your Transit Rights



- You have 15 days to decide whether to challenge a ticket. Read more about what to do if you receive a ticket or if your rights are violated:

▪ **Legal Resources:**
Fair Change Legal Clinic: 647-948-7432
or fairchangelegal@gmail.com
Refugee Law Office: 416-977-8111

Tickets and Legal Resources

Know Your Transit Rights!



- Bus and streetcar drivers cannot refuse you service for not paying for fare.
- If your 2-hour transfer ends while you are on a TTC vehicle, you have the right to complete your trip. If you transfer to another vehicle, you will need to pay another fare.



Provincial Offences Officers and TTC Special Constables



- Provincial Offences Officers and security guards cannot search, arrest, or detain me and can only use force in self-defence.
- Only TTC Special Constables and police can search, arrest, or detain me.
- Ask “*Am I under arrest or being detained?*” If the answer is no, I can refuse to be searched and I can leave.
- If I do not provide my ID to an Officer or a Special Constable, I could be fined.
- Officers and Special Constables must have their body cameras on while interacting with riders.
- I have the right to record fare enforcement staff and police and to know their name and badge numbers. I can file a complaint if transit staff mistreat me or others.

Learn more at: www.ttcriders.ca/rights

Legal Resources

Refugee Law Centre

If Canada Border Services Agency is contacted and you do not have immigration counsel, call: 1-800-668-8258

Fair Change Legal Clinic

Provides assistance with Provincial Offenses Notices, with a focus on helping low-income and street-involved people.

Phone: (647) 948-7432

Email: fairchangeccs@gmail.com

Black Legal Action Centre

Provides assistance with Provincial Offenses Notices, with a focus on helping low-income and street-involved people.

Phone: (416) 597-5831

Bill 6 on Transit



What is Bill 6?

- Bill 6, Safer Municipalities Act (2025) - criminalizes people who are unhoused and those who use drugs
- Part of Bill 6, the *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act*, prohibits the use of drugs in public spaces and allows police officers and authorized provincial offenses officers to **arrest, charge, and/or fine people using drugs**
- Officers only need “reasonable grounds” to believe that individuals are using drugs, implying that it is **up to the discretion of the officers.**

What you need to know

- Proposal from the Ford Government to **expand Bill 6 enforcement to public transit**
- This proposal would empower TTC Special Constables to...
 - Tell transit riders to stop using drugs or to leave transit property
 - If they do not comply,
 - Force transit riders to identify themselves
 - Arrest and charge riders for using drugs, not leaving the public space, and/or not identifying themselves to officers
 - Seize, remove, and destroy the person's drugs
 - Submit the drugs for testing and analysis

Why you should care

- This proposal will disproportionately impact marginalized riders and worsen racial profiling.
- Public transit is a public service.
- Public drug use has increased because of the Ford government's policies targeting drug users, the poor, and the unhoused.
- Increasing safety on transit is complex but increasing policing and surveillance is not the answer.
- A one-time training for Special Constables is not enough.

Fair Pass Program



What is Fair Pass?

- Discount program that makes TTC fares cheaper
 - A 36% discount on adult single fares and a 21% discount on adult monthly passes
- Works on Wheel-Trans!

TTC Fare Types	Regular adult fare using PRESTO	Fair Pass fare	Savings
Single ride	\$3.30	\$2.10	\$1.20
Monthly pass	\$156.00	\$123.25	\$32.75

Who can apply?

You can apply if:

- You live in the City of Toronto (postal code starting with M), and
- You are ages 20 to 64, and
- You receive...
 - Ontario Works
 - Ontario Disability Support Program
 - Emergency Assistance
- OR you have a low income

Income eligibility

If you are not an Ontario Works (OW), Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), or Emergency Assistance recipient, you must meet the following income criteria:

Family Size*	Total Annual Income for Family
1 person	\$ 22,691
2 persons	\$ 32,090
3 persons	\$ 39,302
4 persons	\$ 45,383
5 persons	\$ 50,739

STEP 1 Get a PRESTO Card



STEP 2 Activate PRESTO card



OR



STEP 3 Apply for Fair Pass

Required documents:

- PRESTO card number
- Program Identification Number, if receiving OW, ODSP, Emergency Assistance, or Child Care Fee Subsidy
- If not receiving assistance from these programs:
 - Proof of Toronto address (such as driver's license, utility bill, etc.)
 - Proof of income documents for applicant and each family member between 20-64 (such as CRA Notice of Assessment, EI statements, pay stubs for last 30 days)

If your client doesn't have proof of income, you can provide a [support letter](#).



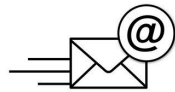
OR



STEP 4 Activate discount

To activate your discount:

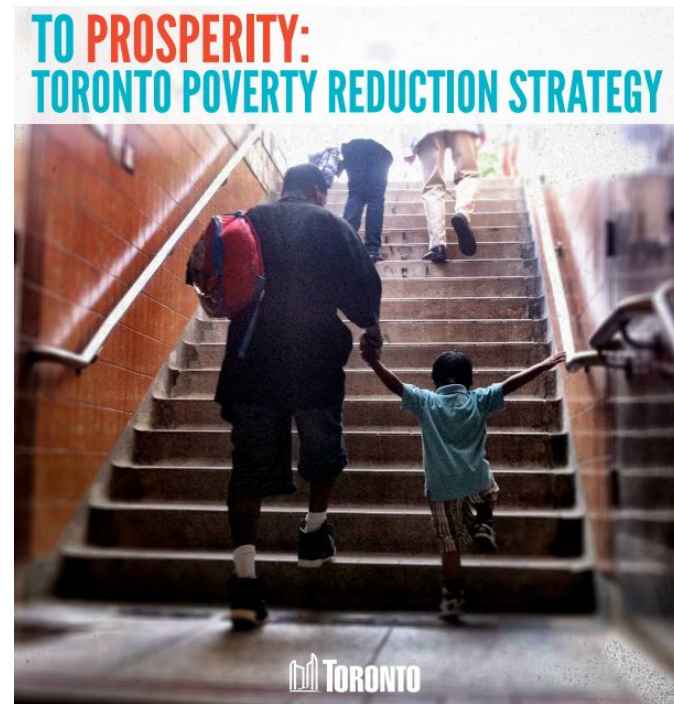
1. You will receive an email notification once the Fair Pass discount is applied to your PRESTO card.
2. Tap your card on any PRESTO reader 24 hours after receiving this notification but within 30 days.



Note: Fair Pass discounts are valid for 12 months and will automatically renew each month, as long as you are still eligible. You will have to apply again in 12 months if you would like to access the discount again.

Fair Pass is still not enough

- Fares are still too high
 - Average Fair Pass PRESTO is tapped only 9 times!
- Eligibility is too strict
 - Final step is 115% of LIM
- The programme is not sufficiently funded
- Uptake needs to improve
- Fare caps are too high



Next steps: **Ways to get involved**

1. Check out our Know Your Transit Rights resources and order copies for your organization: ttcriders.ca/rights
2. Book a free workshop with TTCriders: ttcriders.ca/workshops
3. Volunteer with us! ttcriders.ca/shifts

Contact TTCriders

For questions about the KYTR project or to book a workshop:

- nico@ttcriders.ca

For general inquiries:

- info@ttcriders.ca



Scan to learn more about your rights on the TTC and request KYTR resources and workshops!

Community and legal resources

- [Find your community legal clinic](#) or call 1-800-668-8258
- Legal Aid Ontario: [How do I apply for Legal Aid?](#)
- [Visit Pro Bono Ontario](#) or call 1-855-255-7256
- [Ontario Legal Information Centre](#) offers appointments with a lawyer, in English or French.

Thank you for joining us!

- Subscribe to [CLEO Connect](#) for updates on new legal information and upcoming webinars.
- **QUESTIONS or COMMENTS?**
Contact info@cleoconnect.ca