

## Just How Gallig is TransLink's Taxation Without Representation?

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Sunday, October 31, 2010

<https://politicsrespun.org/2010/10/just-how-galling-is-translinks-taxation-without-representation/>



I wince in pain every time I board a Skytrain car and see this sign reminding us to keep our transit system clean. The TransLink board is a 21st century example of 18th century [taxation without representation](#) as the draconian BC Liberal government altered TransLink's existence to ensure an appointed board is not accountable to the civic officials who fund it with billions of dollars.

"It's your transit system too, help keep it clean." I like the sentiment, but it hurts to think that while we all pay for the transit system, we do not have authority over it.

Every time I see this sign, I am reminded of what the BC Liberal party has taken away from all of us.

So I'd like to begin a campaign to encourage TransLink to name its new electronic fare card "TWR: taxation without representation". If you would like to leap on this bandwagon, [please cruise by their website](#) and enter that idea for the card. Vote early and vote often. You can enter the contest as many times as you like until November 8, 2010. And you can win an iPad or an electronic fare card with a year's worth of transit on it. In fact, I'm going to go put in another entry right now. OK, I put in 3 entries.

And for you enterprising students out there looking for a class project, I submit this for your consideration. Let's see if we can plump the votes up so that all other suggestions get voted off the island. But of course, there is no democracy in TransLink so even if some enterprising person built a little app/script to enter TWR until it gets billions of votes, I'm sure we'll still get something embarrassing, or at the very least anti-democratic.

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And while I'm remarking on how surreal it is to live in a world like before the American Revolution, I'd like to ask you if you have noticed how those expensive TVs on Skytrain platforms are full of [adcreep](#), but they are missing the most essential piece of information in a transit system: the time.

