



RUBY SAHOTA

Member of Parliament – Brampton North
Députée - Brampton Nord

News Release

For Immediate Release

MP Ruby Sahota Joins CUTRIC Partners to Launch North America's First Cluster of Zero-Emission Bus Research

18/02/2020 – Brampton, ON – Ms. Ruby Sahota, the re-elected Member of Parliament for Brampton North joined the Canadian Urban Transit Research and Innovation Consortium (CUTRIC) as it partners with OCAD University, Ontario Tech University, Queen's University, the University of Windsor, Centennial College, York University and Canadian Nuclear Labs to create North America's first cluster of post-secondary institutions dedicated to researching battery-electric and fuel cell electric buses.

MP Sahota announced a federal investment of \$551,000 through the Mitacs Accelerate and Elevate programs in addition to CUTRIC and its members contributing a total of C\$4.2 million over three years to fund CUTRIC's National Academic Committee on Zero-Emissions Buses (NAC-ZEB).

CUTRIC's NAC-ZEB research will allow federal, provincial and municipal governments to make better decisions when it comes to procuring and deploying zero-emission buses across Canada.

"This research will move Canada closer to achieving the goal of electrifying 5,000 buses across the country, as set by the Honorable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities," said Josipa Petrunic, executive director and CEO of CUTRIC. "Our consortium provides the data-driven insights required by municipal, provincial and federal governments to implement electric bus fleets in a way that saves tax dollars over the long-term and improves transit to make it the primary choice for mobility for Canadians in the future. Our work will remove the barriers of uncertainty and high risk associated with the adoption of electrified propulsion technologies."

"The NAC-ZEB project is playing a key role in moving Canada to the forefront of the shift to electrified public transit, a key priority of our government," said Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North. "For a transit network like Brampton Transit which is facing a rapid increase in ridership, the adoption of e-buses will benefit the entire community by reducing fuel consumption, vehicle emissions and traffic congestion, and improve the quality of life for my residents."

This announcement builds on approximately C\$16 million (US\$12.091 million) in federal funding already awarded to the city of Brampton, TransLink, York Region Transit and Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd. through Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) to help launch the Pan-Canadian Electric Bus Demonstration & Integration Trial: Phase I in partnership with Canadian electric bus manufacturers, New Flyer Industries and Nova Bus along with international charging systems partners, ABB Group and Siemens.

"Our research will answer the question of how researchers and implementation teams can accurately track the progress and impacts of ZEB implementation," said Jeremy Bowes, a tenured professor in design at OCAD University. "We are working closely with CUTRIC to develop visualizations that will highlight key factors as decision support for the overall process of ZEB adoption, testing and evaluation in Canada."

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