

# Save HandyDART! Public Forum

Saturday November 23, 2013 12:30 - 2:30 pm

Dogwood Pavilion Seniors Centre, 624 Poirier Street, Coquitlam

(Entrance on Winslow Avenue – Wheelchair Accessible)



Join us for an open discussion of the cuts to HandyDART services, and need to improve transit services for people with physical or cognitive disabilities – many of whom are older seniors. Members of the new ad-hoc *HandyDART Riders Committee* will discuss their plans to form a coalition of HandyDART riders.

## The HandyDART Cuts and Freeze:

TransLink budgeted for 613,000 hours of HandyDART service in 2011, but due to the transit funding crisis this has been cut back to 598,000 hours – *a reduction of 15,000 hours from what was promised*. Now TransLink's Base Plan shows HandyDART service hours frozen at this reduced level for a decade to 2023, while the population of older seniors and demand for HandyDART soars.

In addition, 10,000 hours have been cut from HandyDART and the budget re-allocated to a taxi pilot project. The substitution of taxis for HandyDART vans and professional drivers is causing severe problems for some HandyDART riders.

Improving HandyDART service, and

increasing the budget to meet demand over the next decade, is a big challenge. Please attend the forum to share your concerns and recommendations.

## Your Support Can Make a Difference!

Organized by Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1724 and the ad-hoc HandyDART Riders Committee.