



Letters for Personal View are welcomed. They should be double-spaced and fewer than 300 words. The BCMJ reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. Letters may be e-mailed (journal@bcma.bc.ca), faxed (604 638-2917), or sent through the post.

Public transit

I would like to comment on Dr Mackie's Comment column of the November 2008 issue [*BCM J* 2008; 50:480], commending him for his leadership in promoting the use of public transit.

I have been a user of public transit since my school days, for going to work, classes, and even when I travel. We purposely chose our dwelling so that I was in walking distance of my workplace. I also take the bus from Richmond to Vancouver for meetings, conferences, and even entertainment.

I concur with all of Dr Mackie's listed benefits to using public transit. Many people decline using public transit because of time, saying they can get around faster by car. Actually, this is not nearly always the case in

our traffic-clogged roadways. Furthermore, what are they saving time for? Staying at the office and getting more work done? Going home to do more work there? Using transit gets you out with others in our society, versus isolating yourself in the cocoon of your car as you travel back and forth. You are also being a careful user of nonrenewable resources and doing a favor for the environment.

—Lorne Brandt, MD
Richmond

Driving, docs, and trust

Dr Glynn-Morris wrote that a person who drives a car can afford to be tested for competency to drive the vehicle, and that such testing in people over the age of

75 would save lives [*BCM J* 2008;50: 550]. He suggested that the testing be done by an independent physician.

I agree. I have heard a rumor that some patients may leave their doctor if the doctor recommends the patient undergo a driving test. A doctor is supposed to help maintain a patient's health, and a doctor needs the patient's trust to do so. Requiring someone's personal doctor to fill out the driver's medical exam can erode the trust between the doctor and the patient.

A doctor's job is to maintain his or her patient's health. The Superintendent of Motor Vehicles' job is to assure that people are competent to drive. Doctors should not have to assess a person's competence to drive.

—Robert Shepherd, MD
Victoria

Helping Yourself or a Colleague

The Physician Health Program of British Columbia is a confidential resource for physicians, medical students, residents and their families. If you have concerns about yourself or someone close to you please don't hesitate...

CALL: 1-800-663-6729 or 604-742-0747