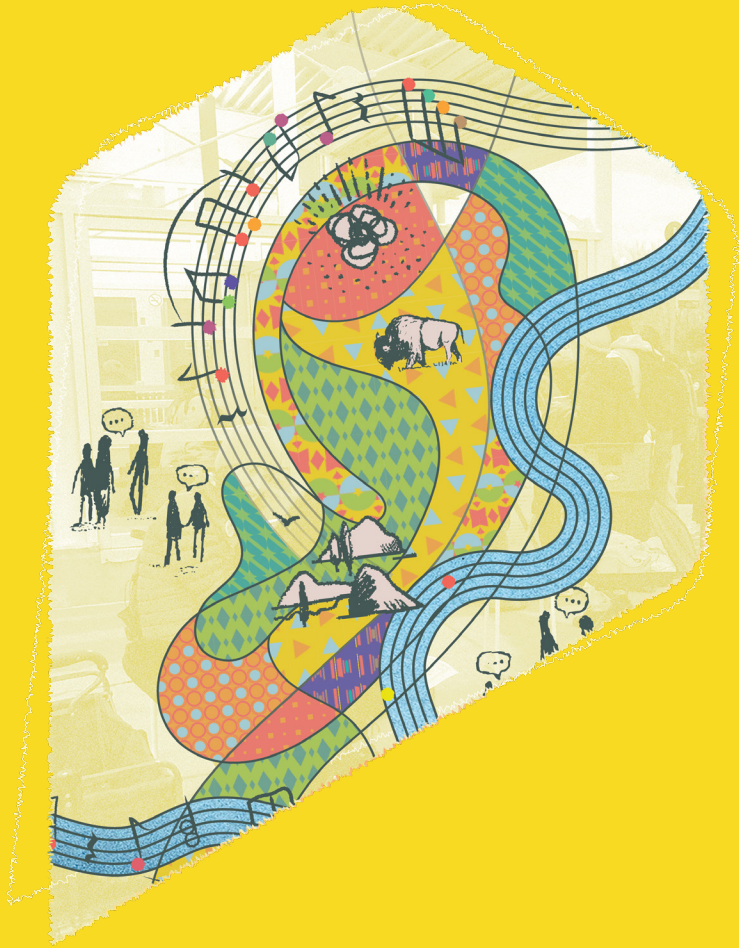


2023

THE STORYBOOK

KNOWSY FEST SECOND EDITION

AURICLE



In the hustle & bustle of transit, we spend so much time beside strangers, yet remain in the dark about their lives. Ever wonder how people around you are really doing? From August to October, eight Local Listeners hung out in stations and on buses & LRTs to gather 175 stories about wellbeing. They ran pop-ups at Churchill Station, Jasper Place, and Clareview Station, rode buses and LRTs, and even dressed up in costumes! We tried to spread a little delight and joy with s'mores, fancy coffees, watermelon, music, dancing, and even a photo booth!

Our goal was to meet people with different life experiences, identities, and perspectives! This look book is a random selection of the 175 stories local listeners' gathered. While these 15 stories do not reflect all of the voices heard, they do offer a glimpse of the moments in and around transit that shaped people's sense of wellbeing, for better or worse.

We invite you to:

1. Notice your reactions.
2. Get curious. What's similar or different to your own experiences?

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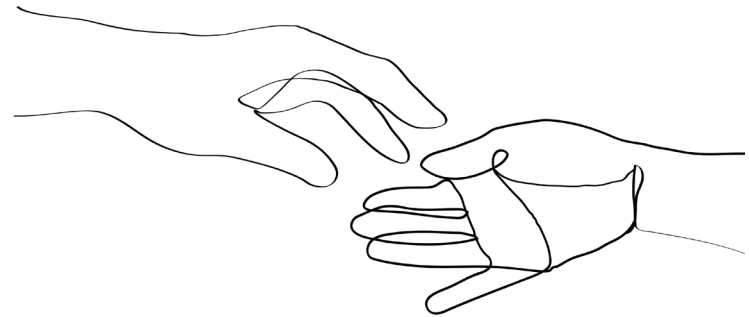
Story II

Last night, I had an appointment at 5pm at Parlor restaurant by MacEwan. And I went to ETS trip planner, which I use all the time, too, because I'm a little less mobile than normal and I was out the downtown strath-, the Stanley Milner library, and I needed to go eight blocks. But I didn't feel I could walk that far. So I used ETS trip planner, and it told me to take the 500x to get to my destination. Thinking I'm so smart, I managed to get on the bus. But I did not know that x means Express and it goes quite far without stopping. And I went the wrong direction. I took the bus going the wrong way. And I ended up at Bonnie Doon. And on the way it was very crowded. It was rush hour at 5pm. And I had to ask somebody to let me sit down, it's so crowded.

And I'm sitting beside a woman. And she explained to me that this bus was not going to stop until I got to Bonnie Doon. And so I was quite late for my appointment, but I got off the bus when it finally stopped. And I took a taxi back to where I was supposed to be. But on the way talking to that woman was just fabulous. You know, she was telling me how the bus worked and that it wouldn't stop and sympathizing with me and asking me if I knew how to get back and looking after me. And so I have experiences like that frequently on the bus. The bus is fun. It's people watching it's eavesdropping and finding out who lives in Edmonton. Figuring out what people do and work, and I love it.

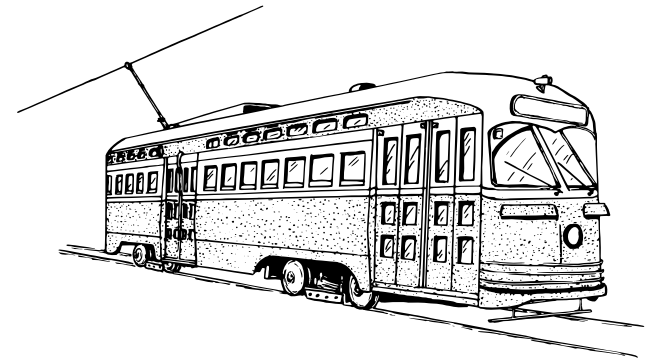
Story 23

Okay, so I was with one of my friends, inside transit waiting for the train. And, somebody - we're like best friends - so somebody came up to us and started saying that we're like dating and stuff. I'm like, we're not dating. He's like, yo guys will look like a good couple. I'm like, No, and I was like we have, he had a talking stage before and it didn't work out and shit, and we'd be embarrassed to get together again, and the security guy mad at us because we're not a couple. I'm like, Why are you mad? It's our business and shit. Yeah.



Story 126

A great LRT memory I have is after a CFL football game with a bus full of people and I was high on magic mushrooms. I thought that I was on the Starship Enterprise. So when the bus started, I'm like, "All right, Scotty give her all she's got! Engage!" and then the bus started, the train started moving. Erupted in laughter of like 150 people all at once! Yeah, it was, it was a great LRT memory.



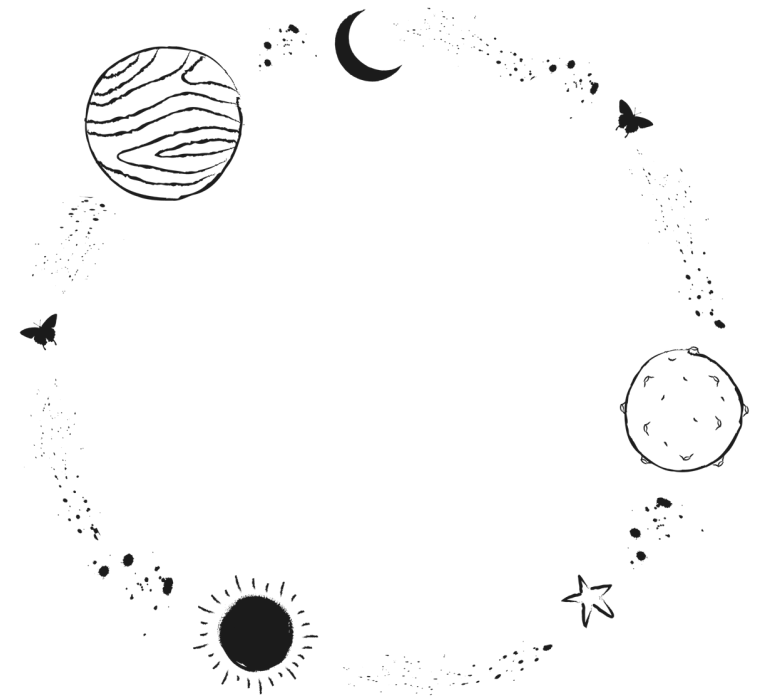
Story 44

Hi, I wanted to tell you about one of the very last times I was on the LRT. And it was two or three years ago. I had to go pick up my car in Clareview. So I got on the LRT at Stadium station. And there were a whole bunch of young men, um, gang members, you know? You can kinda... I mean, and they all dress alike, because they want to be together and whatever. And they were looking at a woman in a head... who had a headdress on. She was very obviously Muslim. Because their head coverings are different from Hindu ladies. They were talking about her. And she was trying to ignore them, but she was visibly nervous and upset. And so I decided to get up and go sit by her. And I said... introduced myself. And I said, "I think we've met before," and started a conversation with her, just to let her know

that she had someone, to take her mind off of it, and for those guys to stop talking to her, and talking about her. And they did. And I was happy that that worked. But since that time, there's been a person murdered, you know, just at the LRT station over here. That was about two, three years ago, I think. And everybody I talked to is having problems on the LRT. I'm grateful I got a car two, three years ago. So I think I've been on an LRT once downtown since then, but I don't feel safe on them anymore.

Story 53

So it was my... I just started a journey from Clareview, and I saw someone sitting in the first coach, and they were high. And, so everyone opted not to sit there and we all went to the next one. So I mean, that was real weird, like early morning and it was at 8:30 in the morning, you see someone and nobody even came to... because I think that train was already coming from somewhere, from the previous station. So when they came here, they should see if the train is empty or not. They didn't check it. And we started boarding the train. And there is already someone in, who is high, so that was weird.



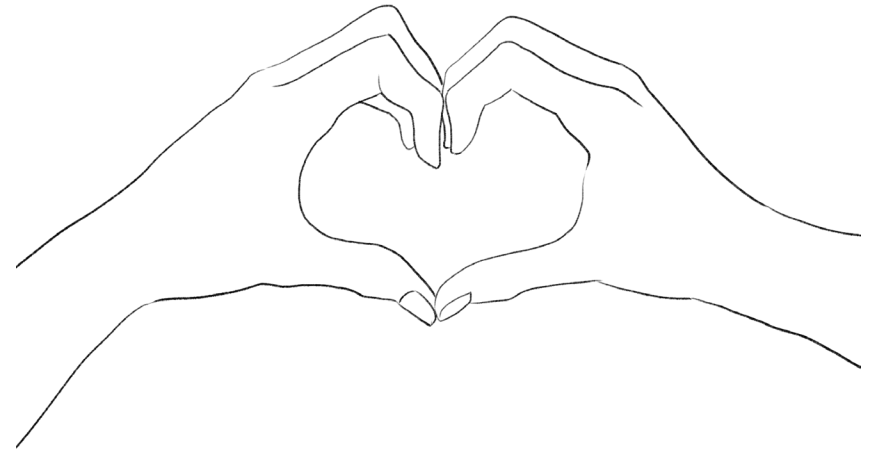
Story 64

Well, I remember one time I was riding the bus home. I can't remember what I was doing. But I was up on 118th Ave for some reason. And I got on the number five to head home. And a couple of young teenagers got on the bus. And one of them had a big coat. And underneath his coat, he had a baseball bat. And I didn't confront him or anything. I just sat there and, you know, I just let it go and nothing happened. But the thing is, I believe it was the very next night, there was a police report on the radio, in the news about a young man in the same area who had a baseball bat. And he charged the police officer, and the police officer had to shoot him and kill him. And it is pretty disturbing to think.

I don't know if the bus driver had noticed he had a baseball bat or if there's anything he could do, you know, maybe just call it in and keep going normally and hope the police catch up with him kind of thing. But yeah, that's certainly one disturbing story.

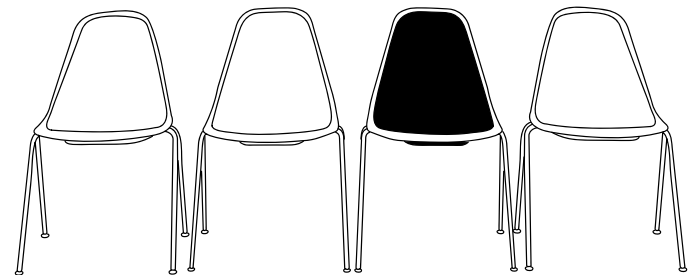
Story 78

One time - I've been off and on in a wheelchair - I got to know a bus driver on my route. And he actually got out of the way to get me a bus pass and a ramp cart. And that really touched my heart because I didn't see him for about two weeks. And I thought, oh, okay, he's not doing it. And in the end, he actually hollered for me. I was walking away from the stop because I just got off the stop that I needed. And he was on a different route. And literally, he says, "I got something for you." And this was two weeks later. It was two weeks later, and he still recognized me.



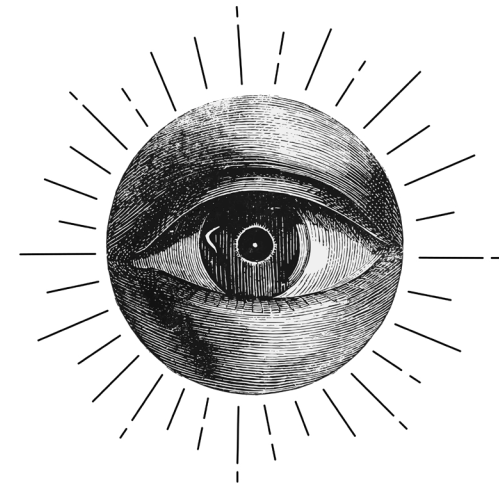
Story 83

Well at the beginning of this term in September, I started taking the bus at a particular time. And this one particular lady made it her mission to ensure that I had a space in the disabled transit section on the bus. I don't 100% need it, but I definitely show signs of needing it. And it was, given the number of youth that tend to ignore the needs of the disabled, it was very pleasant to see this lady who was probably in her 40s, let's say, making sure that someone would vacate a seat for me. I have since seen her on the bus on a regular basis. And every time that we do share the bus, she makes sure that someone gets up or there's space on the bus - the seating for me.



Story 95

So there was one day when I was coming home from work and there was this little boy that came and sat actually with me just over there on that bench. He was little, maybe six, his name was Ryan. And he started telling me, he's like, "I'm really scared to ride the bus. This is my first time riding the bus!" His mom was standing to the side and I'm like, "Oh, wow, buddy, like this is, that's really cool! Like you've nothing to be scared of. It's really exciting!" And so he just sort of started telling me about how he was new in school, new to Edmonton and all this stuff like that. And so I actually went and I sat with him. We played 'I spy with my little eye.' We played and we just sat there and he just told me about his life, told me about what he had going on in school. It was really, really cute. Really, really sweet. Yeah, but it was a really positive experience overall, for sure.



Story 103

So, me and my girlfriend, it's a new thing. Sorry, my girlfriend and I, we were on the bus. And we were sitting next to each other on those seats on the bus that face the other side of the bus. And there's someone sitting across the bus from us. And she said, "Aw, you guys are such a cute cuddly couple." She said that like a few more times throughout the ride, and the people around her... kinda like that. People around her are kind of giggling, and then when... right before she got up, she was like, "Sorry, I get like this when I'm drunk." Yeah, that was funny.



Story 172

I was having \$50 because I was just arrived to Canada. And when I exchanged Euros for Canadian they gave me big notes. They [the bus driver] said I couldn't pay with a \$50 because they don't have change. It impressed me that - not being able to pay the exact price of the bus - the driver allowed me to use the service. He told me, "It doesn't matter, get inside." They were telling me to get the Arc card and I start using it, the Arc. And this is easier. And then I knew about the Arc. But in Spain, they don't care, they will tell you, get off the bus. If you don't pay, get out.



Story 123

Hello, hi, this is S, I'd like to tell you about an incident, what has happened to me. Yesterday I had a doctor appointment and I was supposed to go and reach a doctor and everything was in the mobile (phone). So in a hurry, I got down from the bus and I was running to the doctor. Suddenly the bus driver saw me and I left the mobile (phone) in the bus and they stopped the bus and he came out of the bus and he handed me the mobile (phone). That was really a heck of a time, which I felt was really something, a blessing in disguise. And I'm so thankful to the transit guys so that they made sure that I get my mobile back which is very [indistinct] of time. Really appreciate it. Thank you.

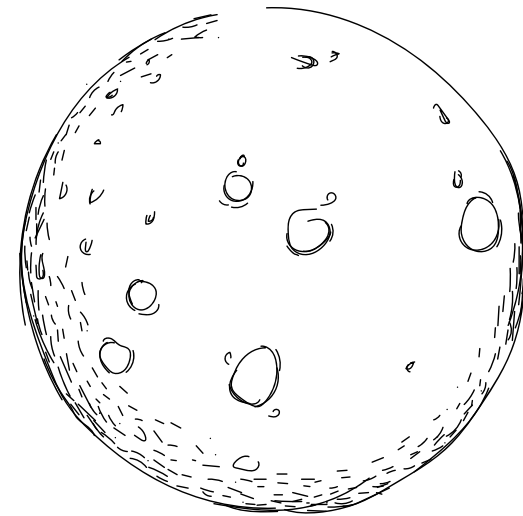
Story 133

Whenever I take the 190, most of the time, there is a driver, I don't know about his name, but he's very kind. He always treats me with a great smile. And he always says, 'Hi, how are you?' and I always have good conversations with him. And he's very kind. So I really appreciate him for being so nice to me every time.

Oh one time... one time, as I took this bus mostly on a daily basis, so he knows me very well. So whenever I like, I come into the bus and he says, like, 'Hi, how are you? Are you doing good?' Like, and I remember that once a time, I just forgot to request a stop, but he knows my stop and he stopped the bus there and I was really thankful at that time. Because if he had not stopped the bus then I have to go to the next stop and then walk towards my home. Yeah, he is very nice.

Story 146

Another time I was taking the train and I was babysitting for a friend of mine. And the young boy was looking out the window of the train as it's coming into the... Clareview. And he, and he saw, we saw the, he saw more trains on the, on the other tracks, and he's like, 'What are those trains doing there? Where are they going?' And I told them that they were going inside the train station to sleep. That's where they go to sleep at night. 'So you're gonna say goodnight to those trains.' As we were driving, riding by on the train, the young man was a... waved to the trains and it was really cute, Yeah. Felt really, really nice to be around a little person. I just got out of jail and I did a long time. Yeah, that felt pretty good.



Story 158

I was in a vulnerable position, and I was ashamed to ask for a bus ride, but the guy said, 'No.' So I've never asked again. I was just trying to get to, like, downtown. And I told him like, I was like, I'm only short like 50 cents. I was like, I'll pay back next time because usually I do throw an extra ticket or whatever in. And he's like it's not fair for everyone. And I was like, well, I understand it's not fair, I'm like, but I need help, that's why I asked. It was, it took a lot of courage just to ask for help. Usually I don't ask for help, but it was cold and I was tired. Like minus 40.



Thank you to our
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