

The history of transit in British Columbia, Canada, is really the history of one company, the [British Columbia Electric Railway](#) Ltd. It and its successor companies -it was provincialised in 1962- provide public transit throughout the province. At first, just Vancouver and Victoria, but beginning in 1972, the provincial government offered transit service to various other communities. Some cities, like Nelson, Powell River, and West Vancouver, already had municipally owned transit systems. These were amalgamated into the provincially owned fleets. Other cities received transit service for the first time.

In 1999, the provincial government handed over its transit role in Vancouver to the **Greater Vancouver Regional District** (GVRD).

**BC Transit** is a provincial government crown corporation, providing public transit in British Columbia, other than the GVRD. It is responsible for funding, planning, and operating transit vehicles in Victoria and by [contracting with private and public sector operators](#) in the rest of the province.

Greater Vancouver Transit Authority (known as **TransLink**) is responsible for transit (and certain roads, bridges, ferries and auto emission testing) in Greater Vancouver. The former Vancouver-area division of BC Transit, formed into a new company, **Coast Mountain BusLink** (CMBL) provides bus service under contract to TransLink. The name was changed to **Coast Mountain Bus Company** (CMBC) almost immediately. West Vancouver Municipal Transportation Department provides service to West Vancouver under contract to TransLink. In the intervening years, TransLink has awarded contracts to private companies: DW Services in Langley and Bonny's Taxi in Burnaby. These provide minibus service in those communities.

*Page Updated:03/06/01*