BEFORE YOU READ:

1. After reading the title, according to you, what is the text going to be written about?

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2. If you were also interviewed, what answer would you have given to the question in the title?

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WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU PLAN TO DO AFTER THE PANDEMIC ENDS?

March 2021 marks the one-year anniversary of COVID-19 lockdowns, and after this year of disruption, we asked some of our staffs and volunteers the first thing they want to do after the pandemic.
(Souce: https://thecord.ca/what-is-the-first-thing-you-plan-to-do-after-the-pandemic-ends/)

ALYSSA DI SABATINO, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

If you asked me my thoughts on the GRT a year ago, I'd probably give a much different, less romanticized answer, but one unassuming thing I've been missing about pre-pandemic life is taking public transportation. I know this probably sounds weird because buses are not the most sanitary of places to begin with. I don't even want to think about how infrequently the handrails were sanitized or the seats deep-cleaned. I will admit though, that I do miss the long rides where I could do nothing but look out the window and listen to music—it gave me time to be with myself and be content with just being with my thoughts. Taking the bus also meant that I'd actually be *going somewhere,* as opposed to now, where I'm stuck staring at the same four walls every day. Evidently, it's not the bus itself that I miss, but rather, the normalcy of it. So, I can't say that taking the GRT or the Go Bus is going to be the *first* thing I do after the pandemic — I'll probably reserve that spot for hugging my family and friends — but it's definitely an aspect of normal life that I'd be glad to return to.

DEANNA FITZGERALD, STAFF WRITER

Once the pandemic is over—I mean, *really* over—I want nothing more than to go on a shopping trip. Not for groceries or essentials, not for anything that has any pandemic connotations. I want to pack into a car with my closest friends—*sans* mask—and hear their voices in real-time as we sing at the top of our lungs to the playlist I spent all night preparing. When we pull into the mall parking lot we won't have to wait in line outside to get in. We'll go through every store and spend all of our hard-earned money on clothes we

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fall in love with, and we won't have to worry about not touching anything or standing too close to other people in the queuing lane. The word "pandemic" won't even cross our minds, and when I finally smile at people, I'll see them smile back at me.

EMILY WAITSON, NEWS EDITOR

I think of myself as an introvert, but COVID-19 has really forced me to recognize how much I miss being around other human beings, especially in the most mundane settings. The first thing I want to do when the pandemic is over is go to a movie theatre. I want to walk in and smell and hear the popcorn popping, buy myself overpriced snacks and happily watch the trailers and make note of the movies I might want to see next. I just need to sit in a dark room with other people and enjoy what was once a normal experience without having to worry about anything other than the movie we're all there to see. I often think back to when I saw *Avengers: Endgame* in a completely packed Cineplex theatre when it was first released like I'm an old woman reminiscing about the good old days. I'll never forget the palpable anticipation, collective cheers, gasps and audible sobs. God, how I miss that kind of shared energy.

AFTER YOU READ:

1. How many sections can we divide this text into? Summarize each section in your own words, and include your thoughts about the people in the text.

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2. Did your plan change after reading the text? Why? Why not?

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