



The Honourable Omar Alghabra PC, MP  
Minister of Transport  
330 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5  
**Email:** [TC.MinisterofTransport-MinistredesTransports.TC@tc.gc.ca](mailto:TC.MinisterofTransport-MinistredesTransports.TC@tc.gc.ca)

December 16, 2021

**VIA Rail commuter service between Kingston and Toronto**

Dear Minister Alghabra,

As you have no doubt already been made aware by colleagues in the House of Commons, there is considerable public pressure in Coburg, Port Hope, and other communities along the lakeshore route between Kingston and Toronto to restore the early morning commuter train to Toronto and evening return, which have until now been deferred in VIA Rail's phased resumption of services.

With winter upon us and driving conditions becoming more treacherous, we believe there is more than adequate demand to justify the restoration of trains 650 and 651 much sooner than next summer, to serve passengers seeking a safe and comfortable way to get to work.

We therefore ask the Government of Canada, as the shareholder of VIA Rail Canada, to assure VIA Rail's management that they have your unequivocal backing to promptly respond to the public's demand for this service.

Further, we recommend that your office urges Canadian National to expedite the allocation of a train path for the restoration of this service, so that it can take effect this winter and provide the greatest benefit to safety.

Sincerely,

*T.W. Johnson*

Terence Johnson  
President, Transport Action Canada