



Dear ,

We are off to a busy start in 2019 here at Transport Action Canada and its regional affiliates - building on the momentum we established last year.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who responded to our appeal for a year-end tax-deductible donation to Transport Action. Although our advocacy work is largely conducted by a team of dedicated volunteers, there are unavoidable expenses that we must meet, and donations and membership fees represent our sole sources of income.

Although it's now too late for your 2018 income tax return, contributions to the TAC cause made any time this year may be claimed against your 2019 taxes. We very much appreciate your ongoing support.

Here are updates from our regional affiliates, and of some issues that have captured our attention recently:

### **Transport Action Ontario: TAO**

→ Transport Action Ontario and our affiliate, the Northeastern Ontario Rail Network, have sent a joint letter to key cabinet ministers discussing the need for a Northern Ontario intercommunity public transportation planning authority, and submitting six new concepts that need to be explored in the provincial review. [You can view the full letter here.](#)

-> Transport Action Ontario has sent an open letter to Transportation Minister Jeff Yurek and Toronto Mayor John Tory calling for full transparency and public consultation on the proposed Toronto subway upload. We believe the concept is worthy of study, as the status quo is not acceptable. However, there are many important aspects of the upload that need to be dealt with fairly and efficiently. [You can view the full letter here.](#)

### **Transport Action Atlantic**

→ The high levels of cost recovery demanded by Transport Canada on the constitutionally-guaranteed Newfoundland ferry service remain a big concern for Transport Action Atlantic. In the fiscal year ended 31 March 2018, users paid over two thirds of Marine Atlantic's operating expenses, through a tariff that in TAA's view fails to respect the Province's Terms of Union with Canada.

--> Halifax Stanfield International Airport seems to have emerged the winner in a power struggle to position itself as a growing gateway for transatlantic flights. St. John's airport recently lost a seasonal daily WestJet flight to Dublin that the

airline itself had previously trumpeted as an unprecedented success. And some critics are crying "foul".

→ Above stories and others will be featured in the upcoming fall-winter issue of TAA's publication The Bulletin . It all should be available online in early February at: <http://transportationatlantic.ca/documents/>



To end this letter, we also wanted to share with you some other exciting news and articles related to transportation, accessibility etc.

- [Huron Central Railway survives for another year:](#) With a short-line railroader threatening to pull freight service this month, Queen's Park delivered \$980,000 to the Huron Central Railway to keep it running for another year in northeastern Ontario.
- [Ottawa LRT nearing much-delayed start-up:](#) The consortium building Ottawa's light rail transit (LRT) Confederation Line says it will finish construction work in the first quarter of 2019, and expects to turn the project over to the city by March 31.
- [Stantec designs first bus rapid transit line to open in Calgary:](#) Calgary's first dedicated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor, called MAX Purple, is now open and serving the community.
- [Union Station Revitalization:](#) Union Station has been under ongoing construction as part of a City of Toronto multi-year revitalization project. The revitalization is an \$800-million city initiative supported by investments of \$164 million from the Government of Canada and \$172 million from the Government of Ontario.
- [Eight charts show how aggressive railway expansion could cut emissions:](#) Rail is among the most efficient and lowest emitting modes of transport, according to the IEA's new report focusing on the opportunities it offers for energy and the environment.

*Bruce Budd*

Bruce Budd, President  
Transport Action Canada

**P.S:** Transport Action relies entirely on membership dues and donations to fund its advocacy work. Please consider helping us by sending us urgently needed, tax-deductible contribution to our organization so that we can continue our work for the upcoming year to get closer than ever to ensuring accessibility to transportation for all Canadians.

**Any amount--** \$25, \$50, \$100, \$200... Even \$10 will be deeply appreciated, and makes a real impact in our ability to continue our work.

**Donate Now!**

If you prefer to send us a cheque, cheques may be mailed to:  
-- **Transport Action Canada** at P.O. Box 858, Station B, Ottawa K1P 5P9

STAY CONNECTED:

