



TRANSPORT ACTION
CANADA

Transport Action News - March 2023

New Report: Northern Quebec Regional Trains



Train approaching Hervey, David McCormack photograph

Hello ,

We are pleased to announce the release of a [new Transport Action report](#) identifying opportunities to improve the service offered by VIA Rail's two routes in northern Quebec, the Montreal–Senneterre *Abitibi* and Montreal–Jonquière *Saguenay* trains. (See story below) Copies of this report have been delivered to MPs in the region, VIA Rail management, and Transport Canada.

Our work continues to support the restoration of the railway on Vancouver Island, with more than 1,500 letters sent to MPs and MLAs. **Thank you for all your support!** A decision will be made in the next week, and one way or another, Canada and British Columbia must ensure that all people on Vancouver Island have access to safe and reliable public transport, and we will continue to hold politicians to account for this.

You'll also find below our submission for the forthcoming federal budget, asking for the renewal

of VIA Rail's long distance fleet to be prioritized, together with repairing the railway on Vancouver Island. While we continue to support High Frequency Rail, we are maintaining pressure for increased transparency around the design and procurement process.

The *Coalition des Gaspésiens pour le retour du train de passagers de VIA Rail* has also released a brief making the case for the return of VIA Rail service as far as New Carlisle once the track repairs have been completed this year on that segment of the route. [Published here.](#)

The development of hydrogen-powered multiple-unit trains offers a new opportunity for regional passenger rail, on Vancouver Island, in northern Quebec, and elsewhere, to be modern and zero-emission. We are delighted to that Alstom will be testing the first such train in Canada this summer.

Also... **Save The Dates:**

Transport Action Canada's Annual General Meeting for 2023 will be held on **Saturday April 29th**. Members will be able to participate online or attend in person in Ottawa. If you are interested in travelling to Ottawa for the meeting, please [email us](#) for accommodation details.

Transport Action Ontario will hold its annual meeting in Toronto on April 15th. Details will be sent to Ontario members shortly.

Sincerely,



Terry Johnson, President
Transport Action Canada

PS: All our work is made possible by members and supporters like you, both through volunteering and donations. Thank you!

Support our
work



A Strategy for Northern Quebec Regional Trains

Transport Action has published a report, researched by Jon Shrubsole, identifying opportunities to improve the service offered by VIA Rail's two routes in northern Quebec, the Montreal-Senneterre Abitibi and Montreal-Jonquière Saguenay routes.

[Read more](#)

www.transportaction.ca



HFR Request for Qualifications confirms over-complex...

As representatives of the interests of passengers, Transport Action Canada is concerned by the Government of Canada's lack of transparency and extended procurement process for High Frequency Rail, which are causing unnecessary delay to the...

[Read more](#)

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Long distance, Vancouver Island should be budget priorities

Transport Action Canada has submitted the following recommendations for sustainable public transportation priorities in Canada's 2023 federal budget to the Ministry of Finance.

[Read more](#)

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Alstom bringing hydrogen passenger train to Canada

Alstom announced on February 2, 2023 that one of its Coradia iLint hydrogen-powered multiple unit trains will be operating in Canada this summer, carrying passengers on the Train de Charlevoix route in Quebec. The Train de Charlevoix is a...

[Read more](#)

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Atlantic Transport News - February 2023

VIA takes another step in long-haul renewal process; No reason for worry about Atlantic transit security; New Saint John transit service has encouraging start; Marine Atlantic offers off-season deal; and Porter launches jet service from Halifax

[Read more](#)

transportactionatlantic.ca

Transportation Newsround

Maine DOT proposes \$3 million pilot of Brunswick-Rockland RDC service

<https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/maine-dot-proposes-3-million-for-pilot-of-brunswick-rockland-rdc-service/>

'No quick or easy solutions' for surge of transit, street violence in cities: Lametti

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9454794/bail-reform-lametti-transit-violence-ttc/>

Ottawa LRT settlement resolves notices of default

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-lrt-rtc-settlement-contract-maintenance-details-1.6736380>

TransLink to build new Vancouver bus depot for 300 electric-battery buses

<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/marpole-transit-centre-translink-electric-battery-bus-depot-vancouver>

Union Pacific named 'most admired' company; VIA Rail named 'best employer'

https://www.progressiverailroading.com/rail_industry_trends/news/UP-named-most-admired-company-VIA-Rail-named-best-employer--68531

LRT wires 'melted' during January ice storm, transit commission hears

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/lrt-wires-melted-during-january-ice-storm-transit-commission-hears-1.6742830>

Opinion: Hamilton LRT creates an opportunity to build affordable housing

<https://bayobserver.ca/publicly-owned-land-should-be-used-for-affordable-housing-not-sold-to-private-developers/>

USA: Amtrak crews begin training for Gulf Coast route

<https://www.progressiverailroading.com/amtrak/news/Amtrak-crews-to-begin-training-for-future-Gulf-Coast-route--68528>

Spain: Audit exploring how trains were ordered that are too big for the tunnels on their intended route

<https://www.railtech.com/all/2023/02/07/layoffs-at-adif-and-renfe-after-design-debacle-train-too-big-for-tunnels/>

Trailways to restart Toronto-Detroit route abandoned by Greyhound from April 5

<https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/new-detroit-to-toronto-bus-service-to-include-windsor>

TSB slams MTO oversight of provincial railways in accident report

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/transportation-safety-board-release-report-woman-child-hit-by-go-train-1.6735733>

UP Express train fleet temporarily sidelined by brake disc cracks.

<https://news.paxeditions.com/news/other/express-trains-yyz-resume-after-fleet-pulled-service>

Cowichan-Malahat-Langford MP Alistair MacGregor asks parliamentary question about Vancouver Island Rail

<https://www.mycampbellrivernow.com/66875/news/vancouver-island-mp-raises-island-rail-question-in-parliament-as-deadline-looms/>

TTC Riders hold townhall on public transit

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/video/2023/02/09/ttc-riders-host-town-hall-on-public-transit/>

FTW says Winnipeg's proposed transit safety plan doesn't do enough

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9479162/winnipeg-proposed-transit-safety-plan/>

Edmonton adds transit service hours as off-peak ridership grows

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9477981/bus-ridership-edmonton-transit-rebound/>

Timmins/Porcupine station ground-breaking expected soon

<https://www.mykapuskasingnow.com/46758/news/train-station-announcement-expected-soon/>

Victoria-Langford express bus to launch April 10

<https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/express-bus-service-to-connect-langford-downtown-victoria-this-spring-1.6275210>

Ottawa LRT is safe, but transit boss says extra precautions can't be used long term

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/light-rail-subcommittee-first-meeting-tbs-letter-1.6750740>

Transit staff looking to make PC Connect sustainable with provincial funding uncertain

<https://www.stratfordbeaconherald.com/news/local-news/local-transit-staff-looking-to-make-pc-connect-more-sustainable-as-future-provincial-funding-uncertain>

Andy Byford call of rethink of public transit for the post pandemic world

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-we-must-urgently-reinvent-public-transit-for-the-postpandemic-world/>

BC Transit deploying lower-emission buses in Victoria

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/bc-transit-deploying-dozens-of-new-lower-emission-buses-6585033>

Frontenac objects to Lac Megantic bypass alignment

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-quebec-town-votes-no-to-lac-megantic-rail-bypass-project-as/>

Federal NDP calls for passenger rights to be improved and extended to rail

<https://www.hilltimes.com/story/2023/02/20/overhaul-of-passenger-protections-to-include-rail-travel-is-worthy-area-of-focus-says-ndp-transport-critic/378986/>

Quebec government pushing for full HSR

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9499349/quebec-high-speed-rail-service/>

Cobalt urged to lobby for Northlander station stop

<https://www.timminstimes.com/news/local-news/cobalt-urged-to-lobby-for-passenger-train-stop>

BC government spending \$500M to keep ferry fares affordable

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9512811/500-million-in-funding-allocated-to-keep-ferry-fares-affordable-b-c-government/>

Hatch wins award for work on Mount Royal Tunnel project for the REM

<https://www.hatch.com/About-Us/News-And-Media/2023/02/Hatches-innovative-approach-wins-project-of-the-year-award>

CDPQ eyes investment in HFR

<https://montrealgazette.com/business/caisse-de-depot-eyes-federal-high-frequency-rail-project>

Rail could take up to 25,000 trucks loads of Vancouver Island roads

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/rail-could-take-10000-25000-truckloads-of-freight-off-island-roads-report-6613113>

Germany: Siemens to deploy battery-electric trains on challenging Westerwald routes

<https://www.railway-technology.com/news/siemens-mobility-battery-train-contract/>

USA: Full restoration of service to San Diego not expected until April

<https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/full-passenger-service-to-san-diego-not-expected-until-april/>

Spain: Minister and Renfe head out over tunnel size blunder

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-64717605>

USA: Stalder to build battery and hydrogen trains in Utah

<https://www.ksl.com/article/50582124/zero-emission-trains-built-in-utah-promise-a-cleaner-future>

USA: East Palestine derailment was preventable - NTSB

https://www.progressiverailroading.com/norfolk_southern/news/NTSBs-Homendy-Train-derailment-was-preventable--68664

Ukraine: US President Joe Biden visits Kyiv by special train

<https://www.railtech.com/all/2023/02/21/ukrainian-railways-created-rail-force-one-for-surprise-biden-visit/>

Ukraine seeking Canada's help to repair rail system ravaged by war, improve accessibility

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9500017/ukraine-rail-system-canada-help/>

USA: Brightline receives final Siemens train for Orlando extension

<https://www.rtands.com/passenger/intercity/brightlines-bright-orange-2-rolls-into-orlando/>

Transport Action Canada is funded by grassroots members and donors like you. Your support enables us to continue our mission to ensure access to bus and rail services for to 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.

Join or Renew
Now

If you would prefer to join or make a donation by mail, please [download our printable membership form](#) and post it to us at the address below with a cheque.

Thank you again for your continued support!

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