

High-speed passenger rail service to Peterborough moving ahead

PETERBOROUGH, ON: High-speed passenger rail between Toronto and Quebec City, with service to Peterborough, is moving ahead with the announcement today from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The fully electric, high-speed trains will connect Toronto, Peterborough, Ottawa, Laval, Montreal, Trois Rivières and Quebec City, will travel at speeds of up to 300 km/h. The announcement comes with a commitment of \$3.9 billion from the Government of Canada over the next six years to support system development, including laying approximately 1,000 km of new tracks.

“Ensuring Peterborough is a stop on the high-speed rail line has been a priority of the Chamber, as this is a key way to connect our community to the rest of the province. We’re very pleased with today’s announcement,” says Gail Moorhouse, Interim President and CEO of the Peterborough and the Kawarthas Chamber of Commerce. “This rail line will serve an area with 18 million people with an economy worth more than \$850 billion.”

The project is expected to get passengers from Toronto to Montreal in three hours, putting Peterborough in an ideal spot to benefit from intercity and interprovincial trade while opening opportunities for local businesses to access new markets. The announcement is well-timed as the federal government has committed to reducing interprovincial trade barriers. The high-speed rail line is expected to grow our \$300 million tourism economy as many international visitors prefer to use public transit to visit their destinations. “Peterborough is an incredible place to work, live and visit. We look forward to the train connecting our community and our businesses to the province.”

The Peterborough and the Kawarthas Chamber of Commerce was a founder of the initial grassroots Shining Waters Railway organization, working to bring high-speed rail to Canada. The Chamber has been working closely with VIA Rail, VIA HFR, and now Alto to develop the business case for the rail line.” Having Peterborough as a major stop on this rail project is a win for the tireless advocacy work of the Chamber.” says Joel Wiebe, Vice President, Government Relations and Operations at the Peterborough and the Kawarthas Chamber of Commerce.

“While a project of this scale is not built overnight, now is the time for us to invest in making the most of this once in a generation opportunity,” says Moorhouse. “This is a huge opportunity for our community and our businesses, increasing market access, tourism and better connecting Peterborough to Canada’s economic centers.”

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