

18 March 2019



CUTA Executive Committee meets with infrastructure minister and deputy minister

CUTA executive members met with the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, and Deputy Minister Kelly Gillis, at their committee meeting on February 27 in Ottawa. The conversation focused primarily on recent updates from the Investing in Canada Plan Infrastructure Program (ICIP). Meetings were also organized with MP Kate Young, the Parliamentary Secretary for Accessibility, and representatives from the New Democratic and Conservatives parties.

For more information, please contact [Samuel Lafontaine](#) at 613-782-2924.

PBO report shows drop in provincial capital spending

The Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) [released](#) an update on March 13 focusing on infrastructure investments made by provinces and municipalities. You can read the full report [here](#). Unfortunately, the report does not have information on transit infrastructure specifically.

PBO analysis found that provinces have spent less than budgeted on capital spending since the beginning of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). In fact, provincial spending was \$5.4 billion lower than what it should have been after accounting for additional infrastructure funding provided by ICIP since 2016. According to the PBO, spending lapses are not unusual when it comes to capital programs, however they are more pronounced than in the past.

The combination of underspending and higher federal transfers has resulted in a reduced provincial contribution to capital spending since the start of ICIP (down from \$12 for each \$1 of federal contribution in 2015-16 to \$6 in 2017-18).

For more information, please contact [Samuel Lafontaine](#) at 613-782-2924.

Federal government wants your feedback on accessibility

The Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) is currently [seeking](#) input from the public on a new set of proposed accessible transportation [regulations](#). Interested stakeholders have until **April 8** to email their comments and questions to consultations@otc-cta.gc.ca.

The proposed changes cover the following 5 areas: better communication with disabled travelers, better training for workers, more accessible carriers and terminals, more accessible services, and more accessible border and security screening. You can read the full text of the regulations [here](#).

The CTA hopes to have the final regulations published in the Canada Gazette Part II by this summer. If approved, the regulations will go into effect one year after publication.

For more information, please contact [Samuel Lafontaine](#) at 613-782-2924.

Provincial and federal governments are investing in Alberta transit

On March 7, Premier Rachel Notley announced a \$215 million increase to the Alberta Community Transit Fund. These new funds will be invested in [33 projects across 17 municipalities](#). The province allocated \$101.8 million to the Calgary Metropolitan Region, \$95 million to the Edmonton Metropolitan Region, and the other \$17.8 million to other communities around the province, including [over \\$8 million for the City of Lethbridge](#). \$141.4 million of the total \$215 million investment will be funded through grants from the Climate Leadership Plan.

The Government of Canada announced a [\\$1 billion investment](#) under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) for two LRT projects: the Valley Line West extension and the Metro Line Northwest extension. On March 11, federal Infrastructure Minister François-Philippe Champagne was joined by provincial and municipal politicians in Edmonton for the announcement. Alberta is also contributing roughly \$1.17 billion through the Climate Leadership Plan and the City of Edmonton is providing another \$706 million.

For more information, please contact [Samuel Lafontaine](#) at 613-782-2924.

CUTA 2019 Spring Symposium – Registrations are filling up fast! St. John's, NL, May 14–16, 2019

Our 2019 Technology in Transit Symposium is approaching fast, and we are excited about the program! Connect with old and new colleagues in the industry and take advantage of the diverse program that's in store for you. There will be more networking opportunities and a whole suite of round tables, panel discussions and breakout sessions over a shorter, day-and-a-half format, not to mention the much-anticipated technical tour. We have something for everyone. Register today!

This event is carefully designed to respond to our members' needs. At a **lower price point of only \$600 for members**, attendees will spend less time away from the office while being able to attend every presentation offered in [the program](#).

Join transit professionals from across Canada in St. John's for this not-to-be-missed event! [Register here](#).

For more information, please click [here](#) or contact [Paulina Cadena](#) at extension 118.

Sponsorship opportunities for 2019 Spring Symposium

CUTA is offering a range of [promotional opportunities](#) to showcase your business at our spring event in St. John's. If you become the exclusive sponsor of our popular event app, delegates will see your name on every app page. Want to maximize your company's visibility at this great networking event? Sign up to sponsor the welcome reception, break or lunch. These are all excellent opportunities to promote your brand. If you would like to discuss a custom sponsorship opportunity or package, please drop us a note!

For more information, please contact [Paulina Cadena](#) at extension 118.

New course! Asset Management – Building Blocks to Service Excellence

Beginning on **April 11**, CUTA is launching a unique learning opportunity with the only [transit asset management \(AM\) course](#) in Canada. In **10 weeks of training modules**, using invaluable templates and resource materials, this course will set the new standard for AM expertise in transit. Dynamic training modules will lead participants all the way from defining terms to developing AM plans that affect fleet availability, life-cycle costing, parts and supplies, maintenance, financial concepts and controls, performance measurements and key indicators.

CUTA members will benefit from expert training, have a time-flexible learning experience and save the cost of travel and accommodation without losing the ability to network and collaborate with peers from around the country.

For more information, please contact [Kevin Brown](#) at extension 121.

Implementing safety/protective barriers on buses – A discussion with the Labour Relations Networking Group

The Labour Relations Networking Group will continue to work on behalf of CUTA members by holding its next call on the topic of implementing safety/protective barriers on buses. This is an opportunity to hear about what your peers are doing and share what works, what doesn't and why.

For more information and to be added to the distribution list, please contact [Kevin Brown](#) at extension 121.

CUTA announces new Talent Acquisition and Recruiter Networking Group

This new working group of the Workforce Development Committee will meet by conference call or webinar. Members will share best practices, tips, and strategies for finding and attracting the best people to our industry and supporting the efforts of transit system talent acquisition staff. The group will explore the interests of members, who are free to ask questions and suggest topics and potential presenters for CUTA events.

Carrie Hotton-MacDonald, Edmonton Transit Service's Director of Workforce Development, is the group's chair. The first conference call will take place on **April 4, 2019 at 12 noon EST**.

For more information or to join the group, please contact [Kevin Brown](#) at extension 121.

CUTA membership renewal 2019

If you have not already done so, we invite you to renew your membership today. [Click here](#) to view, print, or pay your membership invoice, or please forward the invoice to the most appropriate person at your organization.

If you have any questions about your membership, please do not hesitate to contact Winnie Tong at membership@cutaactu.ca.

Welcome to our new members

Stephen Vetter – Affiliate – Individual

GMS Technologies Inc. – Business – Manufacturer/Supplier

SYSTRA Canada – Business – Consultant

Keep your information up to date at membership@cutaactu.ca.