

5 April 2016



Federal Budget

The [Federal Budget](#) was released in Ottawa and there were a number of items of interest to the transit industry. New infrastructure spending will be implemented in two Phases.

Phase 1 will send \$3.4 Billion in funding over three years for modernization projects that will deliver increased capacity, enhanced service or improved environmental outcome. Funding will be allocated to provinces and municipalities based on transit ridership.

Phase 2 will deliver on the remaining eight years of the Government's long-term infrastructure plan. In this phase, the goals will be broader and more ambitious.

Conference Updates!

Early Bird Registration Extended – Take advantage of the special rates now and save!

We are pleased to announce the extension of the early bird registration for CUTA Annual Conference in historic Halifax.

You can now take advantage of the early bird rates until **April 8th**. Last week we released the [program](#) and are very excited by the line-up as well as the Technical Tours and Companion Tours.

Delegates will be treated to a welcome reception at **Maritime Museum of the Atlantic** and we are very excited to honour Canada's transit leaders at the CUTA Corporate Leadership Awards that take place during the conference.

With the quality educational program you've come to expect and a special focus on [emerging leadership](#)*, this conference will challenge the status quo. Be a part of the transition, join current and future leaders in transit this spring at CUTA's Annual Conference!

Register today and join your transit colleagues this spring in Halifax to make the most of this great learning and networking opportunity! [Register now – save now!](#)

Visit our [events page](#) to learn more and to register. For more information, contact our [conference team](#).

Sponsorship Opportunities for Annual Conference

If you are looking for a great way to promote your business to a dedicated transit audience, sponsoring a CUTA event is an ideal opportunity. There remain some great options for the upcoming Annual Conference at all sponsorship levels. We want to thank our current sponsors for their partnership and look forward to working with you.

Visit our [sponsorship page](#) to learn more. For inquiries or to secure your sponsorship, please contact our [conference team](#).

Canadian Transit Forum Magazine: April 2016

The April issue of *Canadian Transit Forum Magazine* on Accessible Mobility is now available [online](#). For advertising in the Canadian Transit Forum Magazine, please contact [Kim Davies](#) at Naylor.

For more information, contact [Johanne Palermo](#) at extension 120.

New CUTA website to be launched soon

CUTA's new website is set to launch in the coming weeks with a redesigned structure and design. The user experience includes more prominent feature areas on the homepage to share member activity and stories, an integrated events calendar that features both CUTA and industry events, as well as a more robust search feature for CUTA's research, data and publications, and more.

Keep an eye out for the launch bulletin – it will provide a guide to the new website including where to find some of the most accessed areas from our existing website and some how-to instruction on how to best experience and leverage the new site.

For more information contact Erin Brophy at brophy@cutaactu.ca.

2016 Transit Statistic Workshops

In April, the Technical Services Department will be hosting a series of two transit statistics workshops. The first workshop will focus on the Conventional Transit Fact Book and the second on the Specialized Transit Fact Book, with both workshops covering how to read, manipulate, and analyze transit data. You will have the opportunity to ask any questions you might have regarding the completion of the UTS and STS forms during a Q&A session at the end of each webinar.

To register for the **conventional** transit statistic webinar (Tuesday April 12th), please click [here](#).
To register for the **specialized** transit statistic webinar (Thursday April 14th), please click [here](#).

For more information, please contact [Calvin Chia](#) at extension 112.

CUTA's Labour Relations

CUTA has a Labour Relations Sub-Committee. This offers an exclusive national forum for Human Resources professionals, Operations Specialists, Managers and more, to explore labour issues. In our Round Robin offerings, each member raises the topics they would like feedback on, then each participant offers their system's slant on the topics. It is an excellent feedback generator. We meet every two months by conference call, on the second Tuesday of the month, from 13:30 (EDT) to no later than 15:00 (EDT). If you are interested, please contact us for an invitation!

For further information, please contact [Janet Barnard](#) at extension 106, or email Transit@cutaactu.ca.

Fleet, Conventional, and Specialized Monthly Benchmark Reports

The Technical Services Department will soon be releasing the April monthly benchmark report for the, upcoming, **Fleet and On-board Equipment Statistics Report, Conventional Transit Statistics Report (UTS), and Specialized Transit Statistics Report (STS)**. These reports capture the preliminary data that was received as of March 31st. If you have not submitted survey submissions for any of these reports, there is still time to do so! Please keep an eye out to the final report of all data to be published this fall.

For more information or to submit your survey submissions, please contact [Calvin Chia](#) at extension 112.

SmartDRIVER

The SmartDRIVER program is rolling along! Thanks to CUTA program, supported by Natural Resources Canada, transit systems are saving on fuel consumption, repair costs, customer safety, and general wear and tear on their fleets. Offer your operators our 6 skills to success by training your own company Trainer.

Comments from participating transit systems include:

- ``The positives of the SmartDRIVER Program outweigh the negatives tremendously``
- ``Maintenance personnel love the program because it saves on wear and tear on the bus, brakes, tires, pads, etc.``
- ``Managers love the program because of less accidents and slip and fall claims, reduction in fuel consumption, healthier employees (less sick time usage) etc.``

For further details, contact [Kevin Brown](#) extension 121, or write to Training@cutaactu.ca.