

7 December 2015



CUTA Fall Conference and Trans-Expo a Huge Success

On November 21-25, nearly 500 people gathered in Montréal for the CUTA Fall Conference and approximately 1,300 people visited the annual CUTA Trade Show. Under the theme of *Integrated Mobility: The Way of the Customer*, Québec Transport Minister, **Mr. Robert Poëti**, shared his vision of urban mobility and provided clarity about the new governance model proposed for the Montréal Metropolitan Area. The opening breakfast also featured a panel discussion on new mobility providers and the impact of technology-enabled transportation services. The panel featured **Philippe Bellon** (Metrolinx), **Jake Sion** (Transit App), **Marc-Antoine Ducas** (Netlift), **Jean-Nicolas Guillemette** (Uber) and **Yvonne Rene de Cotret** (Deloitte Canada). The discussion was led by **Florence Ferraris**, journalist at Le Devoir, and **Sean Rathwell** from Dillon Consulting and member of the CUTA Board of Directors.

Delegates also heard from the new Minister of Infrastructure and Communities of Canada, the Honourable **Amarjeet Sohi**. Minister Sohi reiterated the Government's commitment to investing \$20 Billion in public transit over the next 10 years. The new funds will be incremental to existing transit investment. The closing lunch featured **Sophie Mougard**, CEO of the transportation planning authority of the Paris region (STIF). Ms. Mougard explained the governance structure in the Paris region and shared the opportunities and challenges brought by the expanded STIF mandate of integrated mobility.

A novelty this year, the conference featured **RAILconnect**, a stream of sessions that offered a deep dive into Canada's urban rail development. In addition to the educational sessions and interactive panel discussions held on the Monday, delegates and Trade-Show visitors attended presentations by rail operators on projects that are shaping the future of urban mobility everywhere across the country.

For more information contact [Paulina Cadena](#) at 416.365.9800 extension 118.

Recognizing Outstanding Individuals

People moving people... this is what the transit industry is about. Our industry strives thanks to the contribution of dedicated and outstanding individuals and the 2015 CUTA Individual Leadership Awards recognized their contribution. The Distinguished Service awards went to **Minh Le** (GO Transit), **Ron Westlake** (City of Kelowna), **Russ Dawydiuk** (GO Transit) and **John Sirovyak** (City of Edmonton). The Excellence awards went to **Chris Upfold** (Toronto Transit Commission) and **Kevin Wenzel** (Leduc transit). The Heroism awards went to **Debbie Dalle Vedove** (Oakville Transit) and **Max Benson** (St. John's Transportation Commission – Metrobus). The W.G. Ross Lifetime Achievement award went to **Florence Junca-Adenot** – (Université du Québec à Montréal).

You can find a detailed description of the Awards and the winners' achievements [here](#).

For more information contact [Jaimie Hildebrand](#) at 416.365.9800 extension 116.

Minister Sohi speaks at CUTA conference

CUTA staff and members were pleased to welcome **Federal Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi** to our Fall Conference in Montreal. Sohi, who has been a transit advocate and attended CUTA conferences in the past, was very generous with his time and informed conference attendees about the government's plans for infrastructure investment, including the new public transit infrastructure plan—you can read his [remarks to the conference here](#). Sohi also met with CUTA's Executive Committee to discuss the industry's funding needs.

We greatly look forward to working with the Minister in the future. You can watch an interview with the Minister and read a story about him, Montreal's Champlain Bridge, and the government's plans for transit investments over at the [Montreal Gazette](#).

For more information contact Jeff Mackey at publicaffairs@cutaactu.ca

Last day to fill out 2015 Member Survey

Today is the final day our Member Survey will be open. If you're interested in a chance at winning a **\$250 pre-paid Visa Gift Card**, fill out our [member survey](#) and provide your name and your organization's name at the end. One CUTA member will be drawn from all of the entries and awarded their prize.

[The 2015 Member Survey](#) will help determine what level of value CUTA provides to you and your organization through our products and services. Your perspective on our strengths, weaknesses and direction are critical to CUTA's work and all that we do as the voice of public transit in Canada.

Your membership is valuable to us, and so is your time. The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete and can be filled out anonymously, should you choose.

For more information contact Jeff Mackey at publicaffairs@cutaactu.ca

CUTA 2016 Annual Conference

Save the Date – Annual Conference Planning Underway!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend CUTA's [Annual Conference](#) from May 14 – 18, 2016 in beautiful and scenic Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Hosted by [Halifax Transit](#), the spring conference will deliver a fresh program designed to inspire, teach, challenge and yes, even entertain you! Visit [CUTA's event page](#), follow us on Twitter or keep an eye on your inbox for exciting conference updates as they unfold, and most importantly - **plan to be with us in Halifax!**

Please book your accommodations at the [Marriott Halifax Harbourfront](#). We encourage you to book early as the room block will fill up quickly.

Conference registration will open in late February at which time you can take advantage of early bird rates and see what the preliminary program has to offer. Don't forget that we're in Halifax in May - plan to bring a family member or partner because the program will also provide great tours and events for companions throughout beautiful and historic Halifax.

For further information please contact Paulina Cadena at conferences@cutaactu.ca

Call for Abstracts coming soon!

We will soon be looking for transportation and industry professionals to speak at this year's 2016 Annual Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Already have a specific topic in mind? Contact us at conferences@cutaactu.ca – we always love hearing your ideas.

Ontario Gas Tax transfer receives a bump in funding

Ontario's Provincial Dedicated Gas Tax transfer for 2015/2016 was announced on November 12. The program will be transferring **over \$332.9 million dollars to some 95 municipalities** across the province. This is an increase of \$11.4 million from last year.

Ontario shares two cents per litre of provincial gas tax revenues with municipalities to expand and improve public transit. Since 2004, Ontario has allocated **more than \$3.4 billion in gas tax funding** to communities across the province.

Municipalities should soon receive their Gas Tax package through the mail. The province has asked that two fully signed copies of the Letter of Agreement, and a copy of the authorizing municipal by-law, be returned by January 29, 2016. The 2015 Reporting Forms are to be returned by February 26.

For more information contact Jeff Mackey at publicaffairs@cutaactu.ca

CUTA Membership Renewal 2016

The year is coming to an end, and it is now time for us to invite you to **renew your membership** with us. [Click here to pay for your membership \(or print your invoice\)](#). We look forward to the coming year, as we work with you to develop an even stronger support network among our members, to support you in your organization's goals, and work together towards Transit Vision 2040.

For further information, please contact [Winnie Tong](#), Acting Membership Coordinator.