

9 February 2016



Annual Conference Halifax update

Early Bird Registration Opening Soon!

Get a jump on spring by taking advantage of our early bird registration for the CUTA Annual Conference in Scenic Halifax! This year's conference is set for May 14 to May 18, 2016. **Early Bird will open on February 15, 2016.**

Have you booked your hotel room for Halifax yet?

Last day to book for special group rate is **April 12** at the [Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel](#) for \$205.00 per night.

CUTA Corporate Leadership Awards Nominations Still Open

Every year CUTA is proud to recognize the efforts and excellence of its members by presenting **Corporate Leadership Awards** in the categories of **Environment, Innovation, Marketing and Communications** and **Safety and Security**. [Nominate Today!](#) **The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2016**

CUTA Transit System Members and Business Members are eligible to be recognized for initiatives and improvements made in the industry. Learn more about the [nomination guidelines](#), award categories and nominate your organization today! We are proud to highlight past winners of the CUTA Corporate Leadership Awards! View Environmental Awards Winner -[Metrolinx's Journey to Energy Excellence](#) from the **2015 Corporate Awards**. Video brought to you by Trapeze Group.

CUTA Sponsorship Program

CUTA is pleased to launch the 2016 Sponsorship Program for our upcoming Conferences and Trade Show in Halifax and Vancouver. We've added value to the program with added visibility, full conference delegate passes, VIP tables, additional signage, networking breakfast and more. Partnering with CUTA is a great way to gain exposure for your business at Canada's two largest transit conferences and Canada's only Transit Trade Show. You're not only in good company, your brand is in front of the right people! Have a look at the 2016 CUTA [Sponsorship Program](#), there is something to suit every budget!

For more information regarding the conference, contact us at conferences@cutaactu.ca.

Cabinet shuffle in Province of Quebec brings changes to the Transport Department

The Premier of Quebec has recently announced a Cabinet shuffle in an effort to refresh his government's mandate. In a surprise move, the Premier expanded the mission of the Transport Department to include sustainable mobility and transport electrification in the portfolio. The Premier has put Jacques Daoust, former Minister of the Economy in charge of the Department. He will be replacing former Minister Robert Poëti.

This new announcement signals the Quebec government's intentions to move towards a strong vision for sustainable transportation in Quebec with a focus on building a green economy. This announcement coincides well with the federal government's recent engagement to invest more in infrastructure, particularly public transit. You can read more about the shuffle over at the [Montreal Gazette](#).

For more information contact Alex Maheu at maheu@cutaactu.ca or 613-788-7985

Greg Percy from Go Transit to Serve on the APTA Executive Committee

The transit industry in North America is highly integrated and many key industry issues are common in Canada and the United States. For many years CUTA, APTA and their respective members have established close working relationships and developed sincere friendships. To continue the strong spirit of partnership and collaboration between the two associations, CUTA is pleased to announce that **Greg Percy**, member of the CUTA Board of Directors, has been appointed to the APTA Executive Committee as ex-officio member representing Canada. A seasoned and passionate transit executive, Greg will be a great ambassador to represent Canada and further strengthen the CUTA-APTA collaboration.

For more information please contact [Patrick Leclerc](#), CUTA President-CEO.

Canadian Infrastructure Report Card points to rehabilitation and replacement needs in transit sector

[The Canadian Infrastructure Report Card \(CIRC\)](#) has been compiled by the **Federation of Canadian Municipalities** in partnership with CUTA. The 2016 CIRC report survey assessed the state of municipal roads and bridges, public transit, buildings, sport and recreation facilities, stormwater, wastewater and potable water infrastructure.

The survey found that one-third of our municipal infrastructure is in fair, poor or very poor condition, which increases the risk of service disruption. With regards to public transit infrastructure, 43% was rated as fair, poor or in very poor condition. Only 'Sports and Recreation Facilities' and 'Buildings' were ranked as in more need of investment than public transit in the survey.

"While governments have increased investments in transit over the last decade, the report shows that over 40% of transit infrastructure is in need of rehabilitation. We look forward to working with all orders of government and stakeholders to renew our infrastructure, maintaining our solid foundation for current needs and preserving a sound footing for future growth", said **Patrick Leclerc**, CUTA President and CEO.

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

CUTA submits Pre-Budget Recommendations to federal government

CUTA has submitted its [pre-budget recommendations](#) to the federal government. This document was created to inform the federal government of the urban transit industry's needs for the next federal budget.

This year's submission focused on three key areas: (1) the coordination and streamlining of pre-existing transit infrastructure programs; (2) recommendations on the creation of a new \$20 Billion Public Transit Infrastructure Fund; and (3) how best to utilize and consult with the urban transit industry with regards to achieving GHG reduction targets and putting a price on carbon.

CUTA's **Public Affairs and Advocacy Team** are working closely with both the political and institutional side of the federal government to ensure the urban transit industry's interests are heard and addressed in Ottawa.

For more information contact [Jeff Mackey](#).

Globe Conference in Vancouver poised to be important meeting for environmental stakeholders

Any CUTA members who are passionate about environmental issues or are in the Vancouver area should consider attending the [Globe Series Conference](#) in Vancouver from March 2-4. Major federal and global stakeholders in the environment, innovation and technology sectors will be in attendance. This will be a great chance for Canada's urban transit industry to show off its sustainability and GHG reducing credentials to very important decision makers.

If you will be attending the conference or would like more information please contact [Jeff Mackey](#).

Cities and provinces are tackling legislative issues surrounding car sharing services

The landscape is changing fast with regards to car sharing regulations for companies like Uber and Lyft. For example, Edmonton has approved a new bylaw specifically designed to regulate ride-sharing services like Uber.

In Ontario, there is a Private Members Bill before the Legislature on the sharing economy that, if passed, would legitimize many ride-sharing services and other parts of the sharing economy. Additionally, Ontario's insurance regulator approved coverage for Uber drivers, allowing ride-sharing companies to pass one of the major hurdles in their fight for legitimacy: insuring their drivers. In Quebec, the National Assembly will be launching a committee into the subject thanks to their new Minister of Transport, Sustainable Mobility and Transport Electrification. Also, Communauto, the car sharing company in Quebec and a CUTA member recently launched a pretty aggressive offer in Montreal that could be viewed as direct competition with public transit in dense urban areas. The Auto-mobile illimité promo by Communauto allows people to have unlimited 30 minutes or less trips in Communauto cars for 40\$ per month including all charges such as gas and insurance.

For more information contact [Jeff Mackey](#).

Canadian Transit Forum Magazine: February 2016 on Accessibility

The February issue of Canadian Transit Forum Magazine is now available [online](#).

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

Please note advertising for the April 2016 issue of Canadian Transit Forum Magazine is currently open. For mor information, contact [Kim Davies](#) at Naylor.

The new CUTA Membership Directory 2016

The print version of 2016 CUTA Membership Directory has been sent to the primary contact of your organization. The electronic version is available to CUTA members only. You must login to the [Members Only Section](#). The Directory is a quick and easy tool for building contacts and accessing the services of suppliers and manufacturers in the public transit industry.

To order additional copies of CUTA's print **2016 Membership Directory** (\$50 each, plus applicable taxes - available to CUTA members only), please print our CUTA [Publications Order Form](#).

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

Training and Professional Development Update

We would like to congratulate the newly certified [Transit Ambassador](#) instructors that attended our learning event last week in Stockton, CA. We will be hosting a number of other Transit Ambassador Train the Trainer certification learning events throughout 2016. The next offering will be [Transit Ambassador Train the Trainer – Advanced](#) in Red Deer, AB.

We will be running [Transit Supervision – Communications](#) on February 8-9 in Vaughan, Ontario, so if you are missing this module to complete your [Transit Supervision Certification](#), register now there a few spots left. If you have missed registering for these offerings, not to worry we have other dates available for our Transit Supervision Certification throughout February and March, check out our learning event [calendar!](#)

With January having come and gone so quickly, spring may already be in your thoughts, so why not register for [Transit Scheduling and Runcutting Level I](#) on April 18-22, 2016 being held at Yorkville Conference Centre in the heart of Toronto.

For more information or to register use the [online registration form](#) or contact [training](#) at extension 121.

SmartDRIVER is calling out for participants

The training department has been approached by several properties in Ontario to have a training for [SmartDRIVER](#) in 2016. This will be an open enrolment event, so we are calling out for participants to join the training!

[Contact us](#) with your availability and number of people you would like trained on [SmartDRIVER](#).

2015 Canadian Transit Fleet Statistics Deadline and Benchmarking opportunities

The deadline of the Canadian Transit Fleet & On-Board Equipment Survey is due from Transit Systems on **Thursday, March 31, 2016**. This year, CUTA is providing all participating Transit Systems with monthly benchmark reports leading up to the final report. This monthly benchmark summary allows transit system managers and statistical contacts to compare their data with their peer transit systems and also validate their own data before the project is completed in the fall. These benchmark reports are exclusive to transit systems and are distributed to stats contacts.

Please also note that the **first 50** participants to submit data to CUTA will have a chance to **WIN (1)** complimentary hard copy of the final Canadian Transit Fleet & On-Board Equipment Fact Book.

For more information, please contact [Industry Data Coordinator](#) at extension 112.

FINAL REMINDER - CUTA Membership 2016

CUTA would like to thank you for your support as a member. The past year serves to demonstrate what can be achieved through the collective representation of public transit. Your collaboration and dedication to our common interests and values have been central to the success of the Association and the public transit industry as a whole. As we prepare for the coming years, we are working to develop an even stronger support network among our members and stakeholders to implement the themes and strategic directions of Transit Vision 2040.

If you have not already paid your 2016 membership fee, we have made it really easy 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 more information, please contact [Winnie Tong](#), Acting Membership Coordinator.