

Sensational!



*Heart of the
Rideau Canal*

July 25, 2016

Secretary
Canadian Transportation Agency
15 Eddy Street
Gatineau, Quebec J8X 4B3

Email: secretariat@otc-cta.gc.ca

c.c. marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca

Subject: Removal of railway tracks by the City of Ottawa

It is difficult to imagine a more symbolic offense to Canada's 150th Anniversary than to break the one strategic railway connection in the National Capital Region between two founding provinces which, when its construction was first described in an Act of the Canadian Parliament in 1867, was declared to be "for the general advantage of Canada" under Section 92(10)(c) of our Constitution.

The socio-economic development potential of every municipality of this region, including Smiths Falls, will be permanently eroded by the loss of through-traffic capability at that particular location. Smiths Falls shares the perspective expressed by Moose Consortium that "Canada's Greater National Capital Region comprises an integrated whole in terms of employment, business, access to services, post-secondary education, recreation, culture, social and family networks, ecological landscape, and other factors."

Therefore, Smiths Falls agrees with Moose Consortium Inc. in requesting that the Canadian Transportation Agency to take action to protect and reconstruct the main line railway of the Ellwood Subdivision approaching the interprovincial Prince of Wales Bridge. Evidence currently available to Smiths Falls indicates that the Agency has not authorized discontinuance of this railway.

The absence of train movements for several years on a railway do not provide its owner the unilateral right to dismantle it outside the requirements of the Canada Transportation Act. Smiths Falls shares the view that this railway be fully reconstructed to its original specifications and clearances for full-size passenger and freight trains.

The removal of this stretch of railway stands as a major barrier to the progressive and innovative approach Moose Consortium Inc. plans to bring to the National Capital Region and the key connecting communities, including Smiths Falls. If successful, the Moose proposal will be a key driver of economic growth and prosperity for the Town of Smiths Falls, our residents, business and industry.

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Furthermore, the benefits will stretch out well beyond the town's borders as the reality of commuter rail service to and from the Ottawa region will benefit much of Lanark County and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.

We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Shawn Pankow", written over a horizontal line.

Shawn Pankow

Mayor of the Town of Smiths Falls