



Daryl Kramp, MP
Prince Edward-Hastings

NEWS RELEASE

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Government of Canada and VIA Rail Unveil New Belleville Station Design

BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO – Prince Edward-Hastings Member of Parliament Daryl Kramp, Mayor Neil Ellis and Yves Desjardins-Siciliano, General Counsel and Secretary of VIA Rail Canada, unveiled the design for VIA's new Belleville passenger rail station today. Representing an estimated investment of \$7 million the project will receive \$2.5 million from the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan. This investment will provide modern, attractive facilities to passengers with capacity to meet potential future growth.

"The new station will bring lasting economic benefits to the people of Belleville and neighbouring communities," MP Kramp said. "It reflects the Government of Canada's commitment to improve passenger rail services in Belleville and all of Canada.."

"Beyond the immediate benefits of jobs and economic stimulus," Mayor Ellis added, "this station will enhance the quality of service to our community. That means better access to and from Belleville, with service that is both efficient and environmentally sustainable for the future."

The new station design will enhance and complement the existing heritage station, which dates back to 1856 and will be preserved. Mr. Desjardins-Siciliano pointed out that the "Belleville station is one of the top fifteen in Canada in terms of passenger volumes today. It serves far more travellers than the builders of the original station ever imagined possible. And that volume will keep growing as VIA continues to add faster, more efficient, more reliable and frequent train services in the Ontario-Quebec corridor."

With construction scheduled to begin next year, the new station will incorporate an island boarding platform and overhead bridge to accommodate the addition of two main rail lines. The additional lines are part of a \$300 million project to expand and improve track between Montreal and Toronto.

“The station design reflects VIA’s commitment to deliver the best possible travel experience for our customers,” Mr. Desjardins-Siciliano said. “That is critical as we continue to enhance our service to meet the needs of people who look to passenger rail for transportation that is safe, convenient, reliable, and environmentally sustainable.”

The Ontario-Quebec corridor is critical to VIA’s success. As a result of the capital investment by the Government of Canada, VIA is completely revamping services while becoming more efficient and improving its environmental footprint and operational performance.

Station and infrastructure improvements across the country have been made possible by an unprecedented \$923 million capital investment in passenger rail by the Government of Canada. This investment is stimulating job creation, skills development and private sector activity across the country. Additional infrastructure projects are aimed at improving service quality and cost efficiency at points across VIA’s coast-to-coast network.

Station Design Highlights

- A fully accessible, welcoming environment that will ensure smooth passenger flows, and provide comfortable, relaxing waiting areas.
- Large, ample windows to allow plenty of light and views outside, including views of train arrivals and departures from multiple vantage points.
- Wider boarding platforms.
- Parking and drop-off facilities designed for the convenience of customers.
- Landscaping that preserves and reinforces the natural environment.

About VIA Rail Canada

As Canada’s national rail passenger service, VIA Rail Canada's mandate is to provide efficient, environmentally sustainable and cost-effective passenger transportation to Canadian travellers

- in both official languages. Every week VIA operates 503 intercity, transcontinental and regional trains linking 450 communities across its 12,500-kilometre route network. The demand for VIA services is growing as travelers increasingly turn to train travel as a safe, reliable and environmentally responsible alternative to congested roads and airports. VIA safely transports over four million passengers annually.

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Backgrounders:

To learn more about VIA's Capital Investment Program please visit

<http://www.viarail.ca/en/about-via-rail/our-company/capital-investment>