

# Speaking Notes

*Windsor, November 8, 2010*

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VIA RAIL CANADA  
DELIVERED AT WINDSOR STATION, ONTARIO**

Good morning Mr. Watson, Mayor Francis, distinguished guests, VIA Preference members. Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a pleasure to be here today and to speak about the new face of passenger rail in Windsor. The station design we are presenting here today is a sign – a sign of changing times, and a sign that passenger rail is changing to meet the needs of the future.

The existing train station here in Windsor dates back to the early 1960s. Over the years we have modernized and expanded the station. But the fact is, it is just not good enough anymore to meet the needs of Windsor, or the increasing number of people using the train. It is just too small.

With the help of the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan, we are changing that. When the new station is completed next year, Windsor will have a larger and fully-accessible station – and an efficient, environmentally-sound and attractive gateway to your vibrant city.

It will be a welcoming and convenient point of arrival and departure for the growing number of Windsor residents, and visitors from southeast Michigan, who choose to travel by train.

And this station is a sign of what is happening across Canada, thanks to an unprecedented \$923 million capital investment in passenger rail by the government. This investment is sincerely appreciated by all of us at VIA and the millions travellers who choose VIA annually.

We have identified the improvements that will keep the passenger train a convenient, comfortable and environmentally-wise mode of travel, and meet the changing needs of

Canadian travelers. We are making those improvements a reality for millions of Canadians coast to coast. And what we are doing here in Windsor is a key element of this ambitious program.

By the end of this year, we will have completed our Chatham Subdivision Project, a \$17 million upgrade program to improve the track between Windsor and Chatham. That will enable us to operate faster trains safely -- reducing travel times, with more reliable on-time performance and capacity for potential growth.

We're making infrastructure improvements like this right through from Windsor to Quebec City. And we are investing in the right equipment – the locomotives and passenger cars – to deliver a national passenger rail service that is second to none.

A rail service that is safe, swift, sustainable, for Canadians in the 21st century.

It gives me great pleasure to also announce today that VIA has just awarded the contract for the construction of this new station to a Windsor-based firm – Loaring Construction.

Conceived by renowned southwestern Ontario architect Myk Wasylo, the station design we are unveiling today, here in Windsor – a first of its kind at VIA - reflects our commitment to deliver the best possible travel experience for our customers.

That is a critical investment as we continue to enhance our service to meet the needs of people in Windsor and across Canada – people who look to passenger rail for transportation that is safe, convenient, reliable, and environmentally sustainable.

Thank you.

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