

## PUBLIC NOTICE

# Railway Maintenance – Vegetation Control

**Annual maintenance work to keep rail lines safe and clear of hazardous brush and weeds.**

**July 20, 2015** – VIA Rail Canada Inc. would like to notify communities along our right of way of upcoming annual weed and brush control starting approximately July 20<sup>th</sup> until August 4<sup>th</sup> (subject to weather conditions and equipment performance) covering approximately 187 kilometres of track between Smiths Falls, ON and Coteau, QC. This is routine maintenance that is conducted annually to ensure the safety of train operations.

At VIA Rail, safety is our top priority. In accordance with Track Safety regulations, we are required to ensure vegetation on our property does not impede sight lines to the train traffic signal system and that any vegetation that poses a potential fire hazard or safety risk are cut back or removed.

An approved water-based herbicide treatment will be applied to the gravelled ballast area, also known as the track bed, confined entirely to VIA Rail's right of way. The herbicide application will be done by Ministry of Environment certified licensed herbicide contractors and applicators in accordance with federal and provincial standards, regulations and guidelines for herbicide use. For invasive or hazardous weeds and plants that pose health and safety risks to the public (such as wild parsnip and giant hogweed) brush-cutting along the railway corridor and other control measures may also be required. VIA Rail's vegetation control program is in accordance with all federal and provincial regulations that provide public works the right to use herbicides when it comes to the safety of their infrastructure.

Please refer to [VIA Rail's Vegetation Management Infographic](#) or Transport Canada's [Rules Respecting Track Safety](#) (TC E-54) for more information. Questions can be directed to VIA Rail Customer Relations at 1-888-VIA-RAIL, or 1-800-681-2561 or [customer\\_relations@viarail.ca](mailto:customer_relations@viarail.ca).