



Backgrounder

Minister Fletcher and VIA Rail announce improvements

Twenty-eight new departures between Ottawa, Toronto and Quebec City

VIA Rail Canada is meeting the growing customer demand in the Ottawa–Toronto–Quebec City corridor by introducing four new trains per weekday and four more on weekends, for a total of 28 new departures per week. In addition to these changes, there is a new direct service between Quebec City and Ottawa, encouraging travel between the two capital cities. These new services, which take effect from December 10, 2012, could attract more than 200,000 new passengers annually.

VIA Rail now offers new direct trains between Ottawa and Quebec City in only 5 hours and 30 minutes. Departures from Monday to Friday at 5:35 a.m. from Quebec City and at 4:10 p.m. from Ottawa will be offered, starting at \$49 in Economy class and \$158 in Business class.

On the Ottawa–Toronto route, 14 options per day are available to VIA Rail customers, while two new departures were added: at 2:25 p.m. departing from Toronto and at 7:30 a.m. departing from Ottawa (Monday to Friday).

Friday and Sunday departures were added between Montréal and Toronto to accommodate the vast amount of travel on weekends. These additions bring the number of trips between Toronto and Montréal on Friday evenings and weekends to 33.

A new service between Montréal and Quebec City has been added. Montréal passengers will be able to board the train for Quebec City that leaves at 9:00 a.m. On the Quebec City–Montréal leg, the train will leave earlier in the afternoon at 3:00 p.m. (Monday to Friday).

For information on the changes that take effect on December 10, visit <http://www.viarail.ca/en/new-frequencies>.

Delivery of the latest F40 locomotive

Today marks the end of the program to rebuild the F40 diesel locomotives which extends their life by 15 to 20 years, at less than half the cost of purchasing new equipment. Used on the Toronto–Vancouver and the Montréal–Halifax legs, as well as on the Quebec–Windsor Corridor, these locomotives represent 70% of the Corporation's locomotive fleet. This work, which was completed by CAD Railway Industries (CAD), integrated many systems that were not available when the locomotives were constructed in the late 1980s. New technologies will eliminate up to 12% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the fleet, contributing to a 16% reduction in GHGs in VIA Rail's network compared to 1990 levels. The improved F40 locomotive fleet will also result in fuel savings of up to five million litres annually, as well as a 15% reduction in maintenance costs annually.

The 100 million dollar contract to rebuild the F40 locomotives, which was awarded in December 2007, created 125 jobs at CAD and generated economic benefits for Canadian suppliers.

Safety improvements at railway crossings in the Quebec-Windsor Corridor

As a responsible carrier, VIA Rail has invested \$ 40.4 million to improve safety at various crossings in the Quebec-Windsor corridor. Since 2011, VIA Rail has eliminated the risk of incidents at railway crossings by eliminating intersections and displaying better signage in order to improve the safety for passengers and citizens. Many of these improvements have been made in conjunction with the CN and CP.