

VIA Rail continues its transformation by breaking ground on construction of cutting-edge Toronto Maintenance Centre

TORONTO, July 10, 2023 – Today VIA Rail breaks ground on construction at its Toronto Maintenance Centre (TMC). This major upgrade will provide a state-of-the-art maintenance facility for VIA Rail's new fleet of 32 trains in the Québec City-Windsor corridor and is an important pillar in VIA Rail's large-scale modernization which aims to transform the way Canadians travel from reservation to destination.

"This modernized maintenance centre will support us in our mission to provide our passengers the most enjoyable travel experience and better connect Canadian communities," said Mario Péloquin, VIA Rail's President and Chief Executive Officer. "It will also allow our employees to work with the most modern equipment and will provide them the necessary tools to maintain the new fleet according to VIA Rail's standards of excellence."

The modernization of VIA Rail's Toronto Maintenance Centre protects the investment in the new fleet by increasing its longevity. The innovative Vehicle Equipment Measurement System (VEMS) will allow VIA Rail to improve proactive maintenance with an early warning detection system, ensuring any issues are dealt with swiftly, safely, and without prolonged downtime.

"This pivotal step in our modernization process will allow VIA Rail to maintain the 32 trains of the new fleet that will offer an unparalleled customer experience for passengers travelling in the Québec City – Windsor corridor," said Bruno Cacciola, Chief Business Transformation Officer.

In keeping with VIA Rail's vision to positively impact the communities we serve, the work will be conducted by Buttcon Limited, a construction firm with its head office in



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Woodbridge, Ontario and will create up to 475 local jobs in the trade and construction industries between now and completion in 2026.

The scope of the work includes:

- The demolition of a portion of the existing structure and the construction of state-of-the-art facilities;
- Construction of a new addition, removal, and replacement of tracks, and;
- The addition of a stand-alone wheel lathe facility (to maintain wheels and ensure smooth operation on the tracks) and critical infrastructure improvements throughout the maintenance yard.

The funding of the modernization of VIA Rail's maintenance centres, the implementation and integration of various Information Technology (IT) systems as well as the transformation of maintenance processes are all part of the funding for VIA Rail's Fleet Replacement Program provided in the 2018 federal budget.

[Click here](#) to visit the webpage dedicated to the modernization of VIA Rail's Toronto Maintenance Centre.

ADDITIONAL QUOTES:

"Passenger rail is an important part of Canada's history, and VIA Rail has been an essential part of that story. Our Government is committed to ensuring that the future of passenger rail is bright. That's why we made a significant investment to replace the VIA Rail fleet in the Québec City-Windsor corridor. I am pleased that this facility upgrade will ensure VIA Rail's new fleet is serviced and maintained to the highest level possible. This is a great example of our Government's long-term commitment to supporting passenger rail."

*The Honourable Omar Alghabra
Minister of Transport*

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"Buttcon is excited to embark on this amazing project," exclaimed Peter Di Gaetano, President and CEO of Buttcon Limited. "This moment signifies the culmination of our collaborative partnership with VIA Rail, a testament to the unwavering dedication and ingenuity of every team member. We eagerly anticipate surpassing industry standards and transcending conventional construction practices, ensuring the seamless execution of the Toronto Maintenance Centre Modernization Project. Together, we embark on this transformative journey, driven by innovation, collaboration, communication, and the exchange of professional expertise."

Peter Di Gaetano

President and CEO of Buttcon Limited

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About VIA Rail

As Canada's national rail passenger service, VIA Rail ([viarail.ca](https://www.viarail.ca)) and all its employees are mandated to provide safe, efficient, and economical passenger transportation service, in both official languages of our country. VIA Rail operates intercity, regional, and transcontinental trains linking over 400 communities across Canada, and about 180 more communities through intermodal partnerships, and safely transported over 5 million passengers in 2019. The Corporation has been awarded ten Safety Awards and three Environment Awards by the Railway Association of Canada since 2007. Visit the "About VIA Rail" section at <https://www.viarail.ca/en/about-via-rail>.

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