



House of Commons

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CN Rail Profits Up, ACR Passenger Train Service Down

Martin Sings "Lonesome Railway Blues" in House of Commons

OTTAWA – CN Rail announced 2006 profits of \$2.09 billion or 34 per cent today while it is cutting Algoma Central Railway passenger service, Sault MP Tony Martin said today.

"More profits, less service. Have we forgotten CN is required to run whatever passenger service the government deems necessary?" Martin said in a House of Commons statement delivered before Question Period.

The federally-subsidized CN Rail has announced its second cut in three years to ACR's passenger service. Martin, promoting the campaign of Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains, said a government train strategy must complement its tourism strategy.

Investing in train passenger service is good for the economy, taxes, the environment and helping northerners access regionally-centered healthcare delivery.

Here is Mr. Martin's full statement:

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"Mr. Speaker, this government has Northern Ontario residents singing the lonesome railway blues. CN Rail has cut Algoma Central Railway's passenger service for the second time in three years. Tourist operators, small towns and First Nations communities will suffer.

Meanwhile, CN Rail, built with federal support and recipient of federal subsidies, announced today profits of 34 per cent, \$2.09 billion, for

2006.

More profits, less service. Have we forgotten CN is required to run whatever passenger service the government deems necessary?

Our tourism strategy must be in sync with our train strategy. Ontario Tourism generates \$20.8 billion in revenue and employs over 323,000 people.

Governments should be investing in such wilderness tour icons as the Polar Bear Express and the Agawa Canyon Train.

Investing in passenger trains creates jobs, generates taxes, helps the environment and gives northerners access to regional health care delivery.

Let's stop the "strategy of abandonment" for Algoma's trains.

Let's get CN Rail back on track.

All aboard!

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