



## **Martin rides the rails for better passenger service in North**

*By David Helwig  
SooToday.com  
Sunday, April 22, 2007*

SAULT STE. MARIE – This Sunday and Monday Sault MP Tony Martin will travel most of the Northern Ontario portion of the All-Aboard train ride in support of improved passenger service and wilderness tours in the north.

The trip, organized by the Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains (CAPT), will travel through Ontario's northern wilderness from Sault Ste. Marie through Algoma Country, Agawa Canyon, and the James Bay Frontier down to Toronto, with stops along the way at Hawk Junction, Hearst, Cochrane, North Bay, and Toronto's historic Union Station.

Martin is leaving the train to be in the House of Commons Tuesday for an important vote on the Afghanistan mission.

However, he has arranged CAPT to meet Transport Canada officials in Ottawa next Thursday to press for a renewed federal commitment to the Algoma Central Railway and demonstrate the economic, cultural and environmental benefits that trains hold for the region.

Martin cited a U.S. report issued this week by nine states that an enhanced passenger rail regional service could generate \$23.1 billion in user benefits from time savings, congestion relief and emission reductions during the first 40 years of the project.

For Michigan, alone, the benefits could total between \$2.3 billion to \$3.5 billion, in addition to creating 6,970 new, permanent jobs, and \$138 million in extra household income.

"This report is but the latest reminder that trains are good for people, the economy and the environment," Martin said.

\*\*\*\*\*