



CRAA June Monthly Roundup

For those who attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference, we hope you had insightful conversations with peers and industry leaders. We appreciated hearing from CN during their luncheon and had good conversations with other delegates from across the country. It's clear that rail issues aren't unique to Northern Alberta.

As we head into the summer months, we have our sights set on the Calgary Stampede and maximizing our conversations with peers and industry. CSG is working on preparing tailored key messaging that we'll share with everyone once they're finalized.

The date for our next all-member meeting has also been set. We will meet at **8:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 27**. CSG will send the calendar invite soon.

Thank you,
Your CRAA Executive Team

Advocacy Round-Up

After a short notice offer from the federal Minister of Transport's office to meet with Parliamentary Secretary Vance Badawey, we, unfortunately, declined the offer as many of our members were unable to make the trip to Ottawa. We have notified the Minister of Transport's Chief of Staff and requested a meeting time that offers us at least four weeks advance notice. Our goal is to meet with the Minister and other members of his team.

We are also working to secure another meeting with CN in August, ideally in Peace River, to continue the conversation we started last year. We recognize the need to get this in calendars sooner rather than later to accommodate summer schedules, so please stay tuned for that information.

Our Executive has also agreed to explore engagement opportunities with peers in the Northwest Territories, as we have heard that CN **plans to decommission the link** between Enterprise and Hay River after last year's devastating wildfire left the track unusable.

Hay River South MLA Vince McKay has called on rail giant CN to change its mind about funding repairs to the line after wildfire damage last year.

Officials say CN **does not intend to repair** a 30-km stretch of track between Hay River and Enterprise unless government funding is provided.

Executive members Reeve Ungarian and Mayor Pickard presented at the Northern Alberta Elected Leaders meeting, sharing more information about CRAA and the work we've accomplished over the last couple of months on June 14. If you have an upcoming opportunity to present about the Alliance, please inform CSG, and they can provide you with a slide deck.

News, Data, and Insights

Below is a sampling of updates related to the rail sector and its implications. Please let us know if you have any insight from your community or industry's experience with rail.

Update on possible dual rail strike at CN and CPKC: Union planning second strike vote (June 12), Real Agriculture

- CN and CPKC railway workers are organizing a second strike vote, as the current strike mandate is set to expire on June 30th.

CN Rail and union still far apart as both sides reject offers to smooth labour talks (June 7), Edmonton Journal

- Canadian National Railway Co. and the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference Canada still appear to be far apart in contract negotiations after the union rejected calls for binding arbitration and said both CN and Canadian Pacific Kansas City Ltd. rejected an offer to stagger their respective negotiations by two weeks to avoid simultaneous work stoppages.

Shippers fearing rail strike in Canada keep inventory high (June 4), The Loadstar

- Large shippers are keeping inventory high, fearing a Canadian rail strike could come sooner than expected and would likely be an 'all or nothing scenario.'

'Quit being a bully' over rail repairs, Hay River MLA tells CN (May 14), Cabin Radio

- Hay River South MLA Vince McKay has called on rail giant CN to change its mind about funding repairs to the line after wildfire damage last year.

Will Hay River's rail line ever be repaired? (May 8), Cabin Radio

- CN repaired the track from Alberta to the hamlet of Enterprise, 30 km south of Hay River, in October last year. The final leg from Enterprise to Hay River has not reopened. Behind the scenes, an official with knowledge of the issue said CN had told the NWT government it would not repair the remaining track between Enterprise and Hay River unless the company is given funding.

Spread the word!

A huge part of advocacy is making sure we're heard! Please make sure to follow CRAA on our social channels (**LinkedIn** and **X**) and share, like, and repost. While we have CRAA social media channels, we need your voice, too! We've drafted some examples for members to post on their own channels:

Sample Social Post

With a potential rail strike looming, we're already seeing potential impact on our fragile supply chains. As a member of the Community Rail Advocacy Alliance, we want to see a deal reached to show our trading partners that our communities and industries remain open for business.

Read more: <https://www.supplychainbrain.com/articles/39866-carriers-divert-sailings-amid-growing-threat-of-canada-rail-strike>

#abrail #cdnrail #railstrike #railforward #abpoli

