

An Open Letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper:

25 May 2011

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block, 80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A3

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

On behalf of the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA), I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your recent federal election success.

Canada's transit industry, and more importantly the public, recognize and support the recent progress made by the Federal Government in addressing transit needs. We continuously look forward to increasing this momentum and working together to establish critical and dedicated public transit investment, as part of a comprehensive Canadian transit policy framework, which will help build a better Canada for future generations.

A long-term vision for public transit is critical in helping to tackle key national challenges currently facing Canadians, such as easing traffic congestion and gridlock, reducing emissions and improving quality of life. Additionally, it plays a vital role in boosting Canadian cities' productivity and competitiveness, and accommodating population growth and a modal shift towards public transit.

Canadian transit ridership continues to set all-time records, carrying over 1.82 billion passenger trips per year, and is increasing at a rate of two or three times the rate of population growth. This growth must be matched with an efficient and effective public transit system, which will benefit all Canadians.

We were pleased to see commitments related to public transit outlined in the Conservative Party's platform. These include working to develop a long-term plan for public infrastructure that extends beyond the expiry of the Building Canada Plan, and introducing legislation to confirm permanent funding for municipal infrastructure through the Gas Tax Fund. We look forward to working with you and your government on these, and other measures, in the future.

Through the implementation of a long-term, comprehensive plan, Canadian transit systems can achieve their true potential and provide significant economic, environmental and social benefits for the entire nation.

Once again, please accept my congratulations. We thank you for your continued support.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Roschlau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Roschlau
President and CEO