

# *Current Developments in Canada's Passenger Rail System*

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# 1. RAC & Canada's Railways

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- Represent Canadian rail industry
  - Some 55 freight, commuter, intercity and tourist railways
  - An affiliation with more than 400 rail industry suppliers
- Core rail representation from all sectors
  - Class 1s: CN and CP and US carriers
  - Short lines: Over 40 across Canada
  - Passenger: Commuter, Intercity, Tourist
- RAC = One Industry Voice



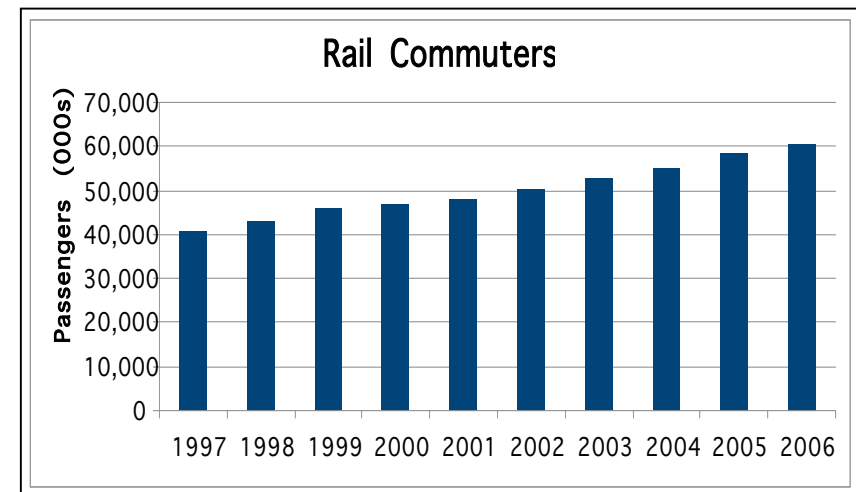
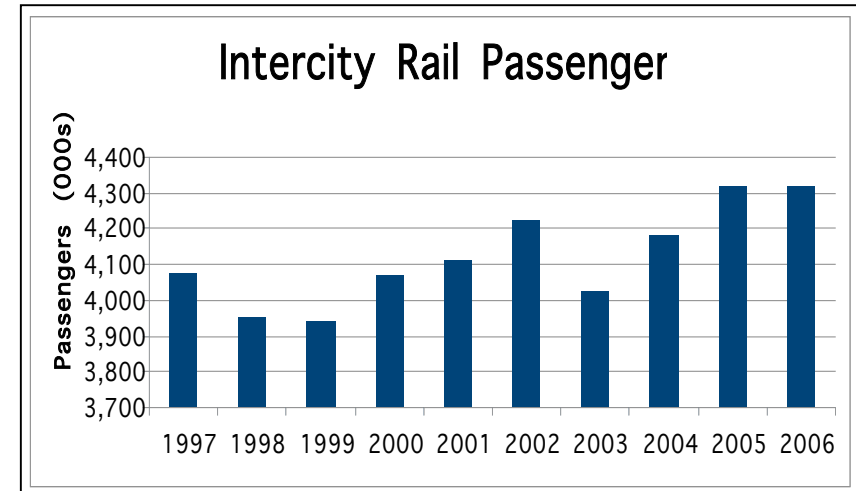
# CANADIAN RAILWAYS: CONTINENTAL REACH



# 2. Canada's Passenger Rail System

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- Moves more than 65 million people annually
- 10 year growth trend in ridership, 45% increase since 1997
- Intercity Rail:
  - Number of passengers up 10% since 1999 to 4.3 million
  - Currently experiencing unprecedented growth with ridership up 10% in 2008
- Commuter Rail:
  - Commuter ridership up by 32% to 61 million since 1999
  - Double digit ridership growth in 2008
  - Experiencing rapid growth and expansion-over \$1Billion has been committed to expanding GO, AMT, and WCE networks and services



# 3. Intercity Passenger Rail

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## VIA Rail:

- Canada's national, government owned, intercity passenger rail service
- Operates 503 trains over 12,500 km of track
- Services 450 communities across Canada
- 2007, \$286 million in annual revenue and \$213 million in government funding
- More than 3,000 employees
- In 2007, VIA received \$600 million for capital investment (\$500 million) and operating costs (\$100 million) from the Government of Canada



# 4. Commuter Rail

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- GO Transit (Toronto)
  - Carries more than 51 million passengers annually, with annual ridership projected to be 78 million by 2020
  - Operates on 380 kilometers of track over seven lines serving 59 stations
  - Over \$1B committed for expansion
- AMT (Montreal)
  - Carries 15 million passengers annually over 60 km of track
  - The government of Quebec has allocated \$300 million for a new commuter lines which will add 5,500 additional riders weekly
- West Coast Express (Vancouver)
  - Carries 2.3 million passengers annually over 70 km of track
  - Significant expansion, over \$300 million (includes transit), in preparation for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games
- Other
  - Ottawa
  - Calgary
  - Edmonton



# 5. Tourism Rail

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## 👉👈 Rocky Mountaineer Vacations

- Hosts more than 77,000 guest annually
- Operates over 1,500 km of track with stops in Vancouver, Kamloops, Jasper, Banff and Calgary
- In 2006, introduced Whistler Mountaineer service between Vancouver and Whistler, B.C.



## 👉👈 VIA Rail Tourism

- Extensive vacation package offerings in all regions of Canada
- VIA won the 2007 Agent's Choice Awards for their rail tourism offerings
- Travel is a high yield and growing line of business



## 👉👈 Polar Bear Express (ONR)

- Originating in Toronto, the Polar Bear Express travels along the shores of James Bay in Canada's North
- The James Bay portion is over 250 km



## 👉👈 White Pass & Yukon Route

- Climbs 3000 feet over 170 km-it is an International Historic Engineering Landmark
- Carries more than 430,000 passengers annually, primarily cruise ship travellers



## 👉👈 Others

# 6. Railway Suppliers

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## Railway Suppliers:

- Over 400 firms operating across Canada, with total annual revenue exceeding \$9 billion (\$4 billion domestic and \$5 billion export)
- The industry employees more than 60,000 people
- All areas are represented (freight, transit, maintenance of way equipment, signals and communications, and related goods and services, consulting engineers, and construction companies)
- More than half of Canadian railway suppliers are directly engaged in R&D activities, very much a high tech sector
- A strong railway supplier industry allows Canadian railways to focus on their core business



# 7. Future Issues

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- A. Enhancing Investment
  - Commuter
    - Continued government support for infrastructure
  - Intercity
    - Infrastructure investment
    - Governance
- B. High Speed Rail
  - Windsor-Quebec corridor
  - Edmonton-Calgary
- C. Freight-Passenger Co-ordination
- D. Environment



# 8. Conclusion

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- Passenger rail is emerging with solid public support
- Strong government support
- Canada has a well established railway supplier base
- New mind set with respect to passenger rail which presents a number of opportunities going forward

