

Via response to Pouliot

Federal Minister of Transportation Benoit Bouchard has responded to Gilles Pouliot's concerns over the VIA Rail cutbacks saying "The plan I proposed provides Canadians with a national, affordable and

sustainable rail passenger network."

Bouchard says the plan involving the cutbacks strikes a balance between the transportation needs of Canadians and the fiscal realities of the federal government.

In his letter to Pouliot,

Bouchard says, "The decision to discontinue the "Canadian" transcontinental service was based on poor economic performance and the availability of alternate transportation modes between communities along this route."

Bouchard notes the 1988

subsidy per passenger for the "Canadian" transcontinental service was \$199. He adds the decision to maintain the "Super Continental" was made because it serves a larger population base.

According to Bouchard, VIA is presently modernizing 157 cars of its longhaul fleet. These cars will be converted from steam to electric power, thereby improving temperature control and resulting in significantly improved reliability. The cars interiors will be completely refurbished as well.

"Unfortunately, the

restructuring of the national rail passenger network called for some difficult decisions and adjustments. However, the planned reductions to VIA Rail services will be implemented as scheduled on January 15, 1990. we must recognize that Canadian taxpayers cannot afford paying large subsidies for a system that few people use. I continue to believe that the decision made with regard to VIA Rail meets the economic and demographic realities of our country and is a financially responsible decision," Bouchard concludes.

Sandra **Juris** **Lynn**

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ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THIS AREA?

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TIMBER MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE STEEL RIVER CROWN MANAGEMENT UNIT 1991 - 1996

The Ministry of Natural Resources has started the timber management planning process for the Steel River Crown Management Unit. The Timber Management Plan will address access, harvesting, regeneration and maintenance to be implemented and the consideration of concerns of other users/uses of the forest during the 1991-1996 planning period.

This is the initial stage of the planning process. This is an invitation for all interested parties to participate in the timber management planning process by providing information for the Steel River Crown Management Unit. Examples of public input which would be useful include: any background information for the area; identification of specific areas which contain features, land uses or values that might be affected by timber management operations; and any issues or concerns which need to be addressed during the planning process. Your preliminary comments and concerns should be submitted by January 20, 1990.

The various public consultation stages of the timber management planning process include:

1) INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Input is sought from the public to increase background information, aid in identifying resource features, land uses and values affected by timber management operation and aid in identifying issues and concerns.

2) PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

Allows concerned parties to review information being considered in the timber management planning process.

3) PUBLIC REVIEW OF DRAFT TIMBER MANAGEMENT PLAN

This review allows all interested parties to analyze and comment on the timber management planning for the management units.

4) PUBLIC INSPECTION OF M.N.R. - APPROVED TIMBER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The final format opportunity for review of the Timber Management Plan. The Timber Management Plan will have been reviewed internally by the M.N.R. and will be M.N.R. - approved.

Further information is available and verbal comments may be directed to:

Greg Pawson
 Unit Forester
 Ministry of Natural Resources
 Terrace Bay, Ontario
 Telephone: (807) 825-3205

Written responses may be directed to:

District Manager
 Ministry of Natural Resources
 P.O. Box 280
 Terrace Bay, Ontario
 P0T 2W0

Please note that opinions expressed become public record unless privacy is requested.

Renseignements offerts en français a l'adresse suivante:

Ministère des Richesses Naturelles
 C.P. Boîte 280
 Terrace Bay, Ontario
 P0T 2W0
 Téléphone: (807) 825-3205

