

# Transportation Information Update\*

Editor: Joseph Monteiro\*\*

March 2008, No. 43

Associate Editor: Gerald Robertson\*\*

## Amended Canada Transportation Act Receives Royal Assent

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, announced on February 29, 2008 that Bill C-8, *An Act to Amend the Canada Transportation Act (railway transportation)*, has received Royal Assent.

Amended Canada Transportation Act Receives Royal Assent, Feb. 29, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)

## AIR TRANSPORTATION

### 1. Expedia Begins Offering WestJet Flights to U.S. Travellers

WestJet announced on March 3, 2008, the expansion of its partnership with Expedia, Inc., the world's leading online travel company. From this day, all of WestJet's published fares, schedules and inventory are available to leisure and unmanaged business travellers through Expedia® in the U.S.

### 2. WestJet in hard fight for corporate flyers

Despite its small fleet, WestJet plans to boost its sales to the business travellers. It estimates that it has roughly 40% of this market and has formed a small corporate sales team, which has signed up more than 1,000 clients in the past 18 months, including Wal-Mart and the Hudson Bay Co., by offering them performance-based incentives and other perks like access to third-party lounges. At the same time, it has increased its offerings to corporate travel management companies like American Express, Carlton Wagonlit, and Vision 2000. In addition, it has also sought international partners and recently expanded its partnership with Expedia Inc.

### 3. Canada Announces Open Skies Agreement with Barbados

The governments of Canada and Barbados have negotiated an Open Skies-type air transport agreement to increase trade and tourism between the two countries on March 4, 2008. This is the first open skies agreement between these countries.

### 4. Air Canada expands Calgary transborder service with daily non-stop flights to Newark

Air Canada announced the expansion of the Calgary-Newark daily, non-stop flights beginning June 16, 2008 and a new daily non-stop transborder flight to complement it from Calgary-New York JFK.

### 5. Air Canada reports February traffic

Air Canada reported a load factor of 79.5 percent for February 2008, 0.5 points lower than that recorded in February 2007. The main line carrier flew 5.6 percent more revenue passenger miles (RPMs) in February 2008 than in February 2007. Air Canada's capacity increased by 6.2 percent for February 2008. Jazz's capacity for February 2008 increased by 7.0 per cent, resulting in a load factor of 76.4 percent, compared to 75.7 percent in February 2007, an increase of 0.7 percentage points. On a combined basis (Air Canada and Jazz), system traffic rose 5.8 per cent on a capacity increase of 6.3 percent, resulting in a load factor of 79.2 percent for February 2008. International traffic (RPMs) increased by 7.5% for the same period on a capacity increase of 9.3%.

### 6. WestJet Announces a Record February Load Factor of 82.8 Per Cent

WestJet announced on March 5, 2008, that its traffic for February 2008 featured a record load factor 82.8%, compared with 82.3% in February 2007. Revenue passenger miles (RPMs) and available seat miles (ASMs) for February 2008 increased by 19% and 18.2% over February 2007, respectively. Sean Durfy WestJet's president said

## Current Developments in Brief

### Air Transportation

#### CANADA

1. Expedia Begins Offering WestJet Flights to U.S. Travellers, March 3, 2008, [www.westjet.ca](http://www.westjet.ca)
2. WestJet in hard fight for corporate flyers, March 3, 2008, [www.nationalpost.ca](http://www.nationalpost.ca)
3. Canada Announces Open Skies Agreement with Barbados, March 4, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
4. Air Canada expands Calgary transborder service with daily non-stop flights to Newark, March 4, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
5. Air Canada reports February traffic, March 5, 2008, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
6. WestJet Announces a Record February Load Factor of 82.8 Per Cent, March 5, 2008, [www.westjet.ca](http://www.westjet.ca)
7. Scheduled air passenger origin and destination: Canada-United States, March 7, 2008, [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)
8. Government of Canada Designates WestJet to Operate Scheduled Air Services to Barbados, March 7, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
9. Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports, March 10, 2008, [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)
10. The sun will be hotter this summer than ever with Air Canada and Air Canada Vacations, March 10, 2008, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
11. Start Spreading the News...WestJet adds New York City, March 12, 2008, [www.westjet.com](http://www.westjet.com)
12. More legroom coming, Transat promises, March 13, 2008, [www.globeandmail.ca](http://www.globeandmail.ca)
13. Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports - June 2007, March 14, 2007, [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)
14. Mandatory Safety Measures for Parachuting Activities, March 17, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
15. Air Canada, WestJet see clear skies over Canada, March 18, 2008, [www.nationalpost.ca](http://www.nationalpost.ca)
16. Air Canada expands winter service to Argentina, Brazil and Chile, March 19, 2008, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
17. Air Canada invites westerners to take several bites of 'the Big Apple' with its New York Weekender Pass for Western Canada, March 20, 2008, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)
18. Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports (February 2008), March 26, 2008, [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)
19. Government of Canada Invests in Airport Safety in Red Deer, Alberta, March 27, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)

\* The CTRF is not responsible for the information provided in this Update.

\*\* The information provided is from the Authors and neither the Competition Bureau or Industry Canada is responsible for it.

“Our February load factor of 82.8 per cent marks 14 consecutive months of record load factor. Our seasonal capacity deployment strategy, strong sales for WestJet Vacations, growing network connectivity and continued focus on delivering an exceptional guest experience are key factors in WestJet's leading, and continually improving, performance.”

### 7. Scheduled air passenger origin and destination: Canada-United States

In 2006, over 17 million passengers travelled on scheduled services between Canada and the United States up 4.0% compared with 2005. This was a record third consecutive year for traffic volumes. The majority of all transborder traffic went through Ontario (43.1%).

### 8. Government of Canada Designates Westjet to Operate Scheduled Air Services to Barbados

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, announced on March 7, 2008 the designation of WestJet to operate scheduled international air services between Canada and Barbados.

### 9. Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports

Aircraft take-offs and landings at Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and/or flight service stations increased in 2007 for the third year. Ninety-five airports (Nav Canada) reported 6.07 million movements in 2007 compared with 5.67 million movements in 2006, an increase of 6.9%. Total movements in 2007 are still below the peak in 1999 (6.64 million).

### 10. The sun will be hotter this summer than ever with Air Canada and Air Canada Vacations

Air Canada and Air Canada Vacations are offering more non-stop flights to popular holiday resort destinations. New destinations available this summer will be: Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo, Mexico; Santa Clara, Cuba; and Turks & Caicos. Additional flights have also been added to several popular holiday destinations.

### 11. Start Spreading the News...WestJet adds New York City

WestJet announced on March 12, 2008 the introduction of new seasonal non-stop service from Calgary to New York City via Newark International Airport. Daily flights to this new destination begin on June 2, 2008. It will be the first Canadian carrier to fly to Newark International Airport from Calgary

### 12. More legroom coming, Transat promises

Tour operator Transat A.T. Inc. is promising more legroom for its customers this spring, and is also making long-term plans for a gradual renewal of its fleet of aircraft. The plans were made notwithstanding the fact that on March 13, 2008, Transat reported a first-quarter loss of \$10.1-million or 30 cents a share, down from a profit of \$2-million or 6 cents for the three months ended Jan. 31, 2007. As a result, the stock price fell 8 per cent. It has lost 44 percent since its high in November 2007. Writedowns, high fuel prices and discounted holiday packages due to an oversupply of offerings from tour operators contributed to the loss. In addition, competition from Sunwing Travel Group and New Air is likely to affect its attempt to expand in some provinces.

### 13. Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports - June 2007

In June 2007, the number of itinerant and local movements for the 118 airports without air traffic control towers reached 76,927 take-offs and landings. This is an increase of 24.0% compared to the 62,048 take-offs and landings from 91 airports in June 2006. Guelph, Ontario was the most active site in June 2007 and Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador was the most active airport for itinerant movements compared with June 2006.

### 14. Mandatory Safety Measures for Parachuting Activities

On March 17, 2008, the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, announced new measures to improve the safety of parachuting activities in Canada.

### 15. Air Canada, WestJet see clear skies over Canada

Canada's two national airlines indicated that so far domestic demand for air travel has not yet declined despite the decline in the US. The decline in the market in the US has resulted in a cut back of Delta Airlines' work force by 3% or 2000 jobs. The carriers indicated that the record fuel prices were a matter of concern. The stock prices of both carriers fell.

### 16. Air Canada expands winter service to Argentina, Brazil and Chile

On March 19, 2008, Air Canada announced that it is enhancing service to its major South American destinations next winter with the introduction of new non-stop service to Buenos Aires, an exclusive flight to Santiago and the introduction

20. EU-US Open Skies: the new EU-US Air Transport Agreement takes effect, March 30, 2008, <a href="http://www.europa.eu">www.europa.eu</a>
21. Global Load Factor Falls, March 31, 2008, <a href="http://www.iata.org">www.iata.org</a>
<b>US</b>
1. Improve Air Cargo Competitiveness, March 4, 2008, <a href="http://www.iata.org">www.iata.org</a>
2. Airline On-Time Performance in January Better Than December, Slips From Previous Year, March 4, 2008, <a href="http://www.dot.gov">www.dot.gov</a>
3. Failure: UK Economic Regulation of Airports, March 12, 2008, <a href="http://www.iata.org">www.iata.org</a>
4. BTS Releases December 2007 Airline Traffic Data; U.S. Airlines Carry Record 769 Million Passengers in 2007, March 13, 2008, <a href="http://www.dot.com">www.dot.com</a>
5. U.S. Transportation Secretary Peters Announces New Open-Skies Aviation Agreement with Croatia, March 13, 2008, <a href="http://www.dot.gov">www.dot.gov</a>
6. U.S. Department of Transportation and European Commission Launch Joint Research Project on Airline Alliances and Competition as Part of Open Skies Agreement, March 18, 2008, <a href="http://www.dot.gov">www.dot.gov</a>
7. BTS Releases January Passenger Airline Employment Data; January 2008 Employment Up 3.4 Percent from January 2007, March 18, 2008, <a href="http://www.dot.gov">www.dot.gov</a>

of a Boeing 777-300ER for Sao Paulo.

### **17. Air Canada invites westerners to take several bites of 'the Big Apple' with its New York Weekender Pass for Western Canada**

Air Canada is making it easier and more attractive than ever for passengers from Vancouver, Edmonton and Calgary to experience the excitement of New York City with its multi-trip New York Weekender Pass special promotion. The New York Weekender Pass is for sale until May 31, 2008 and valid for travel for one full year from date of purchase.

### **18. Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports** (February 2008)

Aircraft take-offs and landings at Canadian airports with NAV CANADA (95 airports) reported 435,425 movements in February 2008 compared with 382,982 movements at 95 airports in February 2007, an increase of 13.7% (+52,443 movements).

### **19. Government of Canada Invests in Airport Safety in Red Deer, Alberta**

MP for Red Deer announced on March 27, 2008 that the Red Deer Airport will receive funding to enhance safety, through the 2008-2009 Airports Capital Assistance Program. It will receive up to \$2,131,063 in funding to rehabilitate its airfield lighting system.

### **20. EU-US Open Skies: the new EU-US Air Transport Agreement takes effect**

On 30 March, 2008, the most ambitious air service deal ever negotiated, takes effect. *For the first time, European airlines can fly without restrictions from any point in the EU to any point in the US.* It will bring more competition and cheaper flights to the biggest international air transport market. However, the ultimate objective of the European Union is to create an transatlantic Open Aviation Area: a single air transport market between the EU and the US with free flows of investment and no restrictions on air services, including access to the domestic markets of both parties. To this end, the European Commission will engage in *second-stage negotiations* with the US in May 2008.

### **21. Global Load Factor Falls**

The International Air Transport Association indicated that the global passenger load factor (PLF) fell to 73.3% in February 2008. This is 0.6 percentage points below the PLF in February 2007 and the largest drop is four years.

## **WATER TRANSPORTATION**

### **1. Canada funding to boost ports versus U.S. rivals**

A federal bill to amend the *Canada Marine Act*, which forbids public funding of ports, is nearing final approval in Parliament. The amendments would give ports and port facilities access to federal funding for infrastructure projects, and widen their borrowing powers for investment in expansion projects. This will now give it access to C\$2.1 billion under legislation expected to be approved by Parliament.

### **2. Port of Halifax Monthly Statistics** (YTD to end of December 2007)

Port of Halifax released its year to date statistics on March 3, 2008. For the year 2007, total container cargo, TEUs, declined by 7.5% in 2007 compared with 2006. Imports declined by 9.2% and exports declined by 5.8%. Total cargo (bulk, container, breakbulk and ro-ro) declined by 10.5% for 2007 compared with 2006. Bulk, container, breakbulk and ro-ro changed by -13%, -7.5%, 13.2% and 12.0%, respectively.

### **3. Transport Minister Receives Final Investigation Report on Queen of the North Accident**

On March 12, 2008, the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, acknowledged receipt of the Transportation Safety Board of Canada's final report on the sinking of the Queen of the North off the coast of British Columbia on March 22, 2006.

## **Water Transportation**

### **Canada**

1. Canada funding to boost ports versus U.S. rivals, Feb. 29, 2008, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
2. Port of Halifax Monthly Statistics, March 3, 2008, [www.portofhalifax.ca](http://www.portofhalifax.ca)
3. Transport Minister Receives Final Investigation Report on Queen of the North Accident, March 12, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)

### **US**

1. Container heavyweights to cooperate in transpacific, March 3, 2008, [www.americanshipper.com](http://www.americanshipper.com)
2. PSA profits rise 59% in 2007, March 4, 2008, [www.americanshipper.com](http://www.americanshipper.com)
3. ELAA sure of database's legality, benefit despite ACL resignation, March 4, 2008, [www.americanshipper.com](http://www.americanshipper.com)
4. Weak outlook for U.S. boxes, March 7, 2008, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
3. ELAA sure of database's legality, benefit despite ACL resignation, March 4, 2008, [www.americanshipper.com](http://www.americanshipper.com)
4. Weak outlook for U.S. boxes, March 7, 2008, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
5. Hapag-Lloyd suitors jockey for position, March 10, 2008, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
6. Sale of Hapag-Lloyd? TUI mulls options, March 17, 2008, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
7. Hapag-Lloyd profit rises, March 18, 2008, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
8. Volume growth slows for Asian container ports, March 18, 2008, [www.lloydslist.com](http://www.lloydslist.com)
9. Oakland exports up 29%, March 28, 2008, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)

## RAIL TRANSPORTATION

### Canada

#### 1. CN challenges creeping re-regulation of rail grain transportation in Canada

CN, urged the Canadian government to stay the course toward a commercial framework for grain transportation. It therefore sought leave from the Federal Court to appeal the Feb. 19, 2008, decision of the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) to reduce rail revenue entitlement for grain transportation under the *Canada Transportation Act*. The CTA decision cutting rail grain rates by eight per cent under the revenue cap is retroactive to Aug. 1, 2007.

E. Hunter Harrison, president and chief executive officer, said: "With the latest CTA decision, the government of Canada is effectively transferring income from one sector of the economy – railways – to another – farmers – in what we believe is an unfair ruling on rate cap inputs.

#### 2. Improving Rail Safety in Canada: Minister Tables the *Railway Safety Act Review Report* in the House of Commons

On March 7, 2008, the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities tabled The *Railway Safety Act* (RSA) review report, *Stronger Ties: A Shared Commitment to Railway Safety*, in the House of Commons. The report

presents the findings, which included more than 50 recommendations to improve rail safety in Canada. The three key recommendations are: railway companies should be required to obtain a rail operating certificate once they meet regulated baseline safety requirements, prior to commencing or continuing operations; administrative monetary penalties should be included in the RSA as an additional compliance tool; and railway companies should be required to file annual environmental management plans with Transport Canada to demonstrate they operate in an environmentally responsible manner.

#### 3. CN urges more balanced perspective towards the EJ&E transaction

On March 17, 2008, CN said that the controversy around the purported environmental impacts of its proposed EJ&E acquisition appears to be exaggerated and is not conducive to a sound public interest review of the transaction. It indicated that the transaction would significantly reduce rail congestion in the urban core of Chicago and add much needed capacity to the U.S. rail network. It also indicated that the noise and other environmental impacts appear to be manageable and subject to proper mitigation in partnership with affected communities. It therefore appears that there is no basis for many of the demands being made for environmental mitigation.

#### 4. CN to pump \$1.3-billion into rail infrastructure

CN plans to invest about \$1.3-billion in 2008 to upgrade track and other infrastructure in Canada and the United States. In Western Canada \$430-million will be spent on its network and in both Eastern Canada and the United States \$300-million or a total of \$600-million in both. The spending is expected to increase its operational efficiency.

#### 5. CN announces UTU ratification of labor agreement

CN announced on March 19, 2008 that members (600) of the United Transportation Union (UTU) employed on its former Illinois Central and Chicago, Central & Pacific properties in the Midwest and Southern U.S. have renewed an hourly rate agreement (for the first time) for conductors and brakemen.

#### 6. Railways gouging farmers for grain transport, groups charge

A study commissioned by the Canadian Wheat Board argues that Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railway, have taken more than \$100-million a year in "unreasonably excessive returns" for transporting Prairie grain to port. Bob Friesen, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture says that they're victimized by the railway monopoly. Jim Feeny, a spokesman for CN, said his company disputes the conclusions reached in the consultant's report. A coalition of farm groups have called for a review of rail shipping costs. But a spokeswoman for federal Transport Minister Lawrence Cannon said the government has no intention of reviewing the cost of grain transportation.

#### 7. Railway carloadings (January 2008)

In January 2008, railways loaded 22.7 million metric tonnes, an increase of 6.0% over the previous months level. Non-intermodal loadings accounted for the vast majority of the increase, as it climbed 5.6% to 20.3 million metric tonnes.

### Rail Transportation

#### Canada

1. CN challenges creeping re-regulation of rail grain transportation in Canada, March 3, 2008, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)
2. Improving Rail Safety in Canada: Minister Tables the *Railway Safety Act Review Report* in the House of Commons, March 7, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
3. CN urges more balanced perspective towards the EJ&E transaction, March 17, 2008, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)
4. CN to pump \$1.3-billion into rail infrastructure, March 18, 2008, [www.nationalpost.ca](http://www.nationalpost.ca)
5. CN announces UTU ratification of labor agreement, March 19, 2008, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)
6. Railways gouging farmers for grain transport, groups charge, March 26, 2008, [www.globeandmail.ca](http://www.globeandmail.ca)
7. Railway carloadings (January 2008), March 26, 2008, [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)

#### US

1. Train Accidents Decline for Third Consecutive Year, Other Rail Safety Data Improves, March 4, 2008, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

## HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

### 1. Border Transportation Partnership Reaches Milestone

The Governments of Canada, the United States, Ontario and Michigan announced on March 3, 2008 that the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study teams have reached an important milestone with the completion of the technical analysis of the foundation investigations. The investigations studied how historic salt mining activities could impact the crossings being considered for a new international bridge spanning the Detroit River. In brief the foundations will not be affected.

### 2. BTS Releases North American Surface Trade Numbers for December 2007: Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Rose 3.1 Percent from December 2006

According to the US Bureau of Transportation Statistics, trade using surface transportation between the United States and its North American Free Trade Agreement partners Canada and Mexico was 3.1 percent higher in December 2007 than in December 2006, reaching \$60.9 billion. For 2007, it was \$797.3 billion, 4.9% higher than it was in 2006. U.S.–Canada surface transportation trade totalled \$39.6 billion in December, up 3.7 percent compared to December 2006.

### 3. Canada Line Bored Tunnels Completed Ahead of Schedule

Canada Line Bored Tunnels has completed the second of two side-by-side bored tunnels from just south of False Creek to just north of Pender Street in downtown Vancouver. According to Premier Gordon Campbell “ This breakthrough represents an important milestone for this project, which will significantly improve transit service for people throughout the Lower Mainland”.

### 4. The Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario Continuing Improvements to Highway 401 in Essex County

On March 4, 2008, government officials announced the joint funding for the final phase of the five-phase project to widen Highway 401 approaching Windsor, Ontario.

### 5. Transport Canada Releases New Video on Vehicle Safety Benefits of Electronic Stability Control [ESC]

ESC helps drivers avoid loss of control that could lead to a collision. International research has consistently proven that ESC is effective in reducing the number of serious crashes. ESC helps drivers maintain control when swerving or braking to avoid an obstacle and in cornering when road conditions are slippery. While able to prevent many types of collisions, ESC is especially effective in reducing single vehicle crashes. Transport Canada is: exploring ways to accelerate availability, encouraging production, requiring its use on all light vehicles sold and encouraging Canadians to ask for ESC when they buy a vehicle.

### 6. BTS Releases North American Surface Trade Numbers for 2007: 2007 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Rose 4.9 Percent from 2006

Trade using surface transportation between the United States and its North

American Free Trade Agreement partners Canada and Mexico was 4.9 billion, according to percent higher in 2007 than in 2006, reaching an annual record of \$797 the U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). The 4.9 percent rate of growth from 2006 to 2007 is lower than the 8.9 percent growth from 2005 to 2006. The lower growth was recorded by

## Highway Transportation

### Canada

1. Border Transportation Partnership Reaches Milestone, March 3, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
2. BTS Releases North American Surface Trade Numbers for December 2007: Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Rose 3.1 Percent from December 2006, March 3, 2008, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
3. Canada Line Bored Tunnels Completed Ahead of Schedule, March 4, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
4. The Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario Continuing Improvements to Highway 401 in Essex County, March 4, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
5. Transport Canada Releases New Video on Vehicle Safety Benefits of Electronic Stability Control, March 10, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
6. BTS Releases North American Surface Trade Numbers for 2007: 2007 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Rose 4.9 Percent from 2006, March 12, 2008, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
7. CTA Urges Premiers to Take Action on Interprovincial Trade Barriers in Trucking, March 13, 2008, [www.ontruck.org](http://www.ontruck.org)
8. Large urban transit January 2008 (preliminary), March 17, 2008, [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)
9. Canadian passenger bus and urban transit industries 2006 (preliminary), March 18, 2008, [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)
10. Transit Funding Keeps the Toronto Transit Commission and Commuters Moving Forward, March 18, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
11. Cap on truck speeds proposed, March 19, 2008, [www.mto.gov.on](http://www.mto.gov.on)
12. Truck Speed Limiter Law Introduced in Ontario Legislature, March 19, 2008, [www.ontruck.org](http://www.ontruck.org)
13. Transit Vehicles Must Have Canadian Content, March 20, 2008, [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)
14. 2008 Ontario Budget Invests in Road, Highway Infrastructure, March 26, 2008, [www.ontruck.ca](http://www.ontruck.ca)
15. The Government of Canada Invests in Public Transit for Healthier, More Liveable Communities in Alberta ... March 27, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
16. The Government of Canada Invests in Public Transit for Healthier, More Liveable Communities in Quebec ... March 28, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
17. Purolator Courier, Teamsters union reach tentative agreement, March 28, 2008, [www.ctl.ca](http://www.ctl.ca)
18. LCVs save fuel, US study says, March 31, 2008, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)

### US

1. Over \$400 Billion Available Today for Road, Bridge and Transit Projects U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters Announces, March 26, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
2. ATA [American Trucking Association] wants Bush to give truckers a break at the pump, March 31, 2008, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)

all modes of transport except pipeline exports. Overall imports increased by 4.2 percent and exports by 5.8 percent. Trade only with the US was 4.6 percent higher in 2007 compared with 6.5% in 2006. Michigan ranked as the top US trading state with Canada.

#### **7. CTA Urges Premiers to Take Action on Interprovincial Trade Barriers in Trucking**

In August 2007, Canada's Premiers announced that they were moving forward to strengthen domestic trade between provinces and territories by reducing barriers to trade flows. A key part of the announcement was an agreement to harmonize transportation regulatory codes and eliminate those standards and regulations that are unjustifiable barriers to trade in the transportation sector. This was to be done by July 2008 and the CTA welcomed the news. The CTA says that the lack of harmonization in trucking regulations is most harmful in three key areas. One is the National Safety Code for Trucks; two is truck weights and dimensions standards; and three is different tax regimes for tractors and trailers. The CTA says that it looks forward to some progress in modernizing the rules.

#### **8. Large urban transit January 2008 (preliminary)**

Combined ridership on 10 large urban transit systems in Canada was 2.2% lower in January 2008 than it was for the same month in 2007. Approximately 117.7 million passenger trips were taken on these transit systems in January 2008. These systems account for about 80% of total urban transit in Canada. The trips generated \$200.2 million in revenue in January 2008 (excluding subsidies), a 3.0% increase over January 2007.

#### **9. Canadian passenger bus and urban transit industries 2006 (preliminary)**

Canadian passenger bus and urban transit industries financial performance reached record heights in 2006. For the year, total revenue for the bus-related industries rose 12.3% to a record \$9.5 billion. Expenses increased at a slower pace, rising 7.4% to \$7.7 billion. As a result of the strong growth in revenues, net income for the industries rose 40.1% to \$1.8 billion. Within the bus industries, the urban transit industry accounted for the majority of the revenue generated in 2006. The revenues from urban transit services and other bus activities rose 14.5% to \$6.6 billion. The school and employee bus industry followed with a 12.4% rise to \$1.7 billion.

#### **10. Transit Funding Keeps the Toronto Transit Commission and Commuters Moving Forward**

Subways and their tracks, dedicated streetcar lanes and buses will be improved across Toronto thanks to a \$303.5-million contribution agreement signed on March 18, 2008 by the Government of Canada, the City of Toronto and the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC). The federal contributions will allow for improvements in subway infrastructure, streetcar infrastructure and bus infrastructure. The City of Toronto is contributing \$350 million and the Province of Ontario provided \$303.5 million in funding from 2005 to 2007 for these improvements.

#### **11. Cap on truck speeds proposed**

Ontario is introducing legislation that will cap the speed of large commercial trucks at 105 kilometres per hour by making speed limiters mandatory. It will help reduce green-house gas emissions and prevent serious collisions.

#### **12. Truck Speed Limiter Law Introduced in Ontario Legislature**

Jim Bradley, CEO, of the Ontario Trucking Association said that the introduction of the proposed bill on truck speeds is "a significant step forward for highway safety and for reducing greenhouse gas emissions." He indicated that the Association proposed the idea of speed limiters more than two years ago.

#### **13. Transit Vehicles Must Have Canadian Content**

Transit vehicles bought with provincial funding must now have at least 25 per cent Canadian content. Transportation Minister Jim Bradley said "This approach will create jobs for Ontarians as we build a greener, more comprehensive and convenient public transit system".

#### **14. 2008 Ontario Budget Invests in Road, Highway Infrastructure**

The McGuinty government's first budget in its new term in office (that is of interest to the trucking industry) calls for the following infrastructure investments: 1) Municipal Roads & Bridges -- \$1 billion investment in 2007-08; 2) Highways and Bridges; and 3) Windsor Border. OTA president, David Bradley, said "the investment in roads and highways is always welcome as is the commitment to moving forward with a second crossing at Windsor...."

#### **15. The Government of Canada Invests in Public Transit for Healthier, More Liveable Communities in Alberta...**

The Government of Canada announced on March 27, 2008 funding for capital investments to improve public transit in Alberta (\$52.9 million), Yukon (\$500,000), Saskatchewan (\$14.9 million), Nova Scotia (\$14 million) and P.E.I. (\$2.1 million).

#### **16. The Government of Canada Invests in Public Transit for Healthier, More Liveable Communities in Quebec...**

The Government of Canada announced on March 28, 2008 funding for capital investments to improve public transit in Quebec (\$116.3 million), Newfoundland and Labrador (\$7.6 million), Manitoba (\$17.9 million), New Brunswick (\$11.3

million) and NWT (\$649, 000).

### **17. Purolator Courier, Teamsters union reach tentative agreement**

Purolator Courier and Teamsters Canada have reached a tentative agreement for a contract renewal for Purolator's couriers, package handlers, transport truck drivers and owner/operators across Canada.

### **18. LCVs save fuel, US study says**

Increasing maximum operating weight and length of over-the-road trucks could decrease congestion, save fuel and reduce pollution, according to research by of the American Trucking Associations.

## **GENERAL**

### **1. N.S. Premier outlines potential Gateway projects**

Infrastructure projects that could transform Nova Scotia into a Eastern gateway according to the N.S. premier are: a new multi-transportation corridor to Halifax's Ocean terminal, a new Gateway Logistics Park adjacent to the Burnside Industrial Park, the Burnside Connector, and twinning Highway 104 from Antigonish to Port Hawkesbury, a new refrigerated terminal at Halifax Stanfield International Airport, and dredging Sydney Harbour as part of the initial proposed changes.

### **2. Report says global warming threatens transportation**

On March 11, 2008, a blue-ribbon committee in the US issued a report on global warming. It warned the transportation community that it must begin to factor global warming into its plans or face the consequences of the destruction of infrastructure by heat, rain, hurricanes, and rising sea levels.

### **3. Winnipeg positioning for central role**

The Mayor's Trade Council's Report recommendations were recently presented to the city's Executive Policy Committee. The report outlines strategies for seizing trade and transportation opportunities to build infrastructure and increase private sector investment in Winnipeg. Its key recommendations urge: the city and provincial governments collaborate and harmonize their trade policies; the widening of Route 90 south from the Assiniboine River to Taylor; Winnipeg support creating an inland port based at the Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport; trade routes connecting critical trade activity be established; Winnipeg continue to expand its role in the mid-continent trade corridor that extends south along Hwy 75 – I-20

through Kansas City, Mo. to Monterrey, Mexico; enterprise zones for tax deferral be established to encourage investment in trade activities; and local political and business leaders jointly press the federal government for required support.

### **4. Governments Working Together to Improve the Environment and Keep Commuters Moving in the Greater Toronto Area**

On March 18, 2008, the first shipment of the next generation of Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) hybrid buses was unveiled by government officials. The government indicated that it was pleased to unveil the buses to preserve the environment and reduce congestion. Since 2003, Ontario has committed more than \$2.3 billion to help the TTC make improvements to better serve transit riders. Of the 324 hybrid buses to be purchased using federal funding, over 200 have already been purchased. The Government of Canada is providing up to \$115.8 million and the Province of Ontario provided \$110.9 million for the purchase of hybrid buses through funding made available from 2005 to 2007. Through the Gas Tax Fund, the federal government is providing a further \$407.3 million from 2005 to 2009, which is helping the TTC purchase over 700 clean diesel and hybrid buses, 156 subway cars and 90 Wheel-Trans vehicles.

### **5. Transport Canada Proposes Safety Regulations to Support the *International Bridges and Tunnels Act***

On March 20, 2008, the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, announced proposed regulations that would support the *International Bridges and Tunnels Act* by introducing requirements for owners of Canada's 24 vehicular international bridges and tunnels to inspect and report to the Minister of Transport on the safety of their structures on a regular basis.

### **6. New report warns of congestion costs at Canada/US border**

A report, published by the Brookings Institution and others, said Canada and the US must work together to develop a "border of the future" which would take advantage of new technology to assist with the smooth flow of people and goods

## **Canada**

1. N.S. Premier outlines potential Gateway projects, March 5, 2008, [www.ctf.ca](http://www.ctf.ca)
2. Report says global warming threatens transportation, March 12, 2008, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
3. Winnipeg positioning for central role, March 17, 2008, [www.todaystrucking.ca](http://www.todaystrucking.ca)
4. Governments Working Together to Improve the Environment and Keep Commuters Moving in the Greater Toronto Area, March 18, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
5. Transport Canada Proposes *Safety Regulations to Support the International Bridges and Tunnels Act*, March 20, 2008, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)
6. New report warns of congestion costs at Canada/US border, March 24, 2008, [www.ctf.ca](http://www.ctf.ca)
7. Ontario and Quebec work on strengthening trade, March 28, 2008, [www.todaystrucking.ca](http://www.todaystrucking.ca)
8. National tourism indicators Fourth quarter 2007 and year 2007, March 27, 2008, [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)

## **US**

1. BTS Releases Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI); Freight Index Rose 2.4 Percent in January from December, March 12, 2008, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
2. Exports bounce back to open year, March 12, 2008, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)

across the border. The report also calls on both countries to improve border infrastructure such as bridges, rail lines and ports. It is considered to be a priority.

#### **7. Ontario and Quebec work on strengthening trade**

The Governments of Ontario and Quebec have formally launched negotiations aimed at eliminating restrictions on the free movement of goods, services, investment and people between the two provinces. The negotiations are aimed at improving cooperation with respect to a number of common economic issues like energy management, economic development, trade promotion and support for manufacturing. A total of 249 companies were surveyed. The survey indicates that 11% of Ontario respondents and 12% of Quebec respondents report logistics problems. Firms also indicated other difficulties.

#### **8. National tourism indicators Fourth quarter 2007 and year 2007**

Tourism spending increased 1.4% in the fourth quarter of 2007. This was the fastest quarterly increase in 2007. For the calendar year 2007 tourism expenditures grew 4.3%.

#### **Conferences**

1. 4th East Coast Maritime Conference, June 3-5, 2008, Georgia, Savannah, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)
2. North America's Marine Highways Conference, April 15-16, 2008, Virgin Beach, VA, [www.joc.com](http://www.joc.com)

**Please Register for the Upcoming Event of the Year**

**CTRF Conference June 1-4, 2008,**

*Shaking up Canada's transportation Systems to meet  
future needs*

**Crowne Plaza Lord Beaverbrook Hotel, Fredericton, N.B.,  
[www.ctrf.ca](http://www.ctrf.ca)**