

SHORTLINE RAILWAYS:

Canada's green transportation infrastructure

What are shortlines?

Canada's 50-plus shortline railways transport **\$20.3 billion worth of freight** — everything from metals, lumber, grain and manufactured goods — to and from continental rail networks, such as CN and CP's, **each year**.

\$20.3 BILLION OF FREIGHT A YEAR



Shortline railways compete with a subsidized trucking sector and face rising costs from new regulatory requirements. The capital they need to upgrade track, grow their network and purchase new locomotives and other rolling stock is often difficult to secure.

Why should Canada invest in its shortline rail infrastructure?

RAIL = GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Railways are energy efficient and low emitters of greenhouse gases. **Shifting just 10% of freight from trucks to shortline railways would reduce GHG emissions by close to 500,000 tonnes** — the equivalent of taking more than 3.6 million trucks off the road. New investments in shortline infrastructure would also curb pollution, reduce congestion on public highways and roads, and improve safety.

10% SHIFT FROM TRUCKS TO SHORTLINES = 500,000 TONNE REDUCTION IN GHG EMISSIONS



Shortlines already invest roughly 12% of their annual revenues into maintaining their own infrastructure. Compare that to their main competitor, the trucking sector, which operates on publicly funded infrastructure (roads and highways).



Shortlines provide vital services, helping Canadian businesses to stay competitive. Many rail customers – from natural resource extractors to manufacturers – simply wouldn't exist without the cost-effective connection that railways provide to domestic and international markets. **Today's railways move 1 tonne of freight 1 kilometre for less than 3 cents.**

Canada needs to level the playing field for infrastructure investments. Despite being eligible for the New Building Canada Plan and its predecessor fund, **shortlines have received just 0.07% of available public funds to date**. Government funding would help to ensure that Canada's shortline railways can support our country's sustainable growth now and in the future.

