

Letter to the Editor:

Government needs another look at Ontario Northland services

Editor:

I'd like to remind the government in power that a petition, to bring both passenger and freight rail service back to Timmins, gleaned 7,500 signatures in 2009 and 2010. Ridership wasn't terribly high so decisions were made on that basis. Our passenger and freight rail totally disappeared.

Thankfully, as columnist Brian Macleod noted recently, Northern Ontario mayors are being heard and Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, is taking a stand to transform ONTC.

What happens to our politicians in power such that they don't seem to see or foresee prospective future trends and changes. How can a government not foresee the number of baby-boomers running down those railroad tracks or the need for freight rail for projects like the Ring of Fire, etc? Government and the public were well aware of the Ring of Fire potential when rail travel disappeared from Timmins. Many in Moosonee signed the above noted petition, anxious to have rail joining Timmins to Moosonee whether or not there was any other impetus for passenger and freight rail.

How is it that government in power, voted in to represent the people, does very little to represent the people who put them there?

Debbie Pell,
Timmins, ON