



Media Release

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The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business announces new partnership with VIA Rail *National Rail Company commits to building bridges with Indigenous Communities*



TORONTO — August 22, 2017 — The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) is announcing a new partnership with national rail company, VIA Rail. This partnership comes in conjunction with VIA Rail's commitment to forging close ties with members of Canada's Indigenous communities and their businesses.

"VIA Rail's partnership with the CCAB is an important milestone. VIA Rail serves a number of Indigenous communities through its network of 400 or so stops across the country. This announcement reflects our commitment to support the economic development of these communities by ensuring their indigenous businesses can participate in the economic activities generated by our train operations. As a company that believes in inclusive growth, this strategy should also facilitate increased representation of Indigenous Peoples in our workforce," says Yves Desjardins-Siciliano, President and Chief Executive Officer at VIA Rail.

VIA Rail is also beginning work to attain the CCAB's *Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR)* certification.

"CCAB is excited and honoured to welcome VIA Rail into our business family. The national role VIA plays in connecting all Canadians is essential for promoting our mutual business interests. We look forward to working together in the months and years ahead." -JP Gladu, President and CEO of The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business.

CCAB provides an array of business development offerings, including certification for Aboriginal-owned businesses (CAB) and companies with Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR). TFAB (Tools and Financing for Aboriginal Business) connects Aboriginal entrepreneurs with tools, training and networks to strengthen and scale their businesses.

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About the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB):

CCAB is committed to the full participation of Aboriginal people in Canada's economy. A national non-profit, non-partisan association, CCAB offers knowledge, resources, and programs to both mainstream and Aboriginal owned companies that foster economic opportunities for Aboriginal people and businesses across Canada.

About VIA Rail:

As Canada's national rail passenger service, VIA Rail (viarail.ca) and its 2,700 employees are mandated to provide safe, efficient and economical passenger transportation service, in both official languages of our country. VIA Rail operates intercity, regional and transcontinental trains linking over 400 communities across Canada, and about 180 more communities through intermodal partnerships, and safely transports nearly four million passengers annually. The Corporation was awarded seven Safety Awards by the Railway Association of Canada over the last eight years.

For more information on CCAB, go to: <https://www.ccab.com/>

For more information on VIA Rail: www.viarail.ca/en/about-via-rail

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