

# Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains

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## Project Summary

CAPT is a regionally-based group of individuals, businesses, and other interests who recognize the significant social, economic, employment, cultural, historical, and environmental value of Algoma's Wilderness Passenger and Tour Trains. The organization is dedicated to preserving and enhancing remote passenger train service in the District of Algoma, Ontario, Canada. CAPT has grown steadily since its inception in the spring of 2006. Activities have included town-hall meetings, which have attracted a broad spectrum of interests —tourism operators, camp owners, train employees, municipal representation, artists, and members of two First Nations communities — the development of a website, a letter-writing campaign, and numerous meetings with municipal and regional government representatives. Media coverage has been excellent.

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## Outcomes to Date

- Held a major media event called “ALL ABOARD,” a spectacular three-day train ride through northern Ontario’s wilderness from Sault Ste. Marie to Toronto, with presentations from communities along the line and overnight stays in Hearst and Cochrane; the event showcased northern Ontario’s wilderness passenger and tour trains and the vital importance of public investment in rail service as infrastructure
- Secured funding for an operational plan and economic impact study for passenger train services; the comprehensive study determined that there is the potential for the ACR line to be successfully revitalized, with the rapidly growing wilderness tourism industry; the study confirmed that a revamped wilderness rail corridor could have economic benefits in terms of new jobs, wealth creation, increased tax revenues, and quality of life
- Presented opportunity study results to town-hall meeting
- Developed a strategic plan
- Twenty-one municipalities passed resolutions supporting the work
- Built relationships among the Anglophone, Francophone, and First Nations communities who worked on the project

## Next Steps

- Meetings with stakeholders in smaller communities and First Nations along the rail corridor to build consensus on how to move forward
- Continuing advocacy with various levels of government to promote renewed investment in rail service

**Community Partner:** Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains



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