



The VIA train stopped just beyond the level crossing in Belmont after striking someone on the crossing and puncturing a fuel tank. There were no injuries. Passengers were off-loaded and taken to Truro. (Clair Peers Photo)

VIA Rail Punctures Fuel Tank

By Maurice Rees

A Montreal bound VIA Rail train hit something on a level crossing in Belmont shortly after 4:00 pm on March 20th. A fuel tank was punctured in the incident. No one was injured. The train stopped just past the crossing, which made easy access for Onslow-Belmont Volunteer Fire Brigade members and EHS who were also dispatched to the scene.

Upwards of 90 passengers were off-loaded and taken to Truro. Because of the fuel tank leak, the Colchester Hazardous Material Unit was also called to the scene. OBFB equipment also included its UTV unit in case rescues were necessary.

The Shoreline Journal's photographer, Linda Harrington, arrived at the scene shortly after OBFB received the call at 4:48 pm. Pictured were also obtained from Clair Peers, communications advisor for Onslow-Belmont Fire Brigade. Both sets of photos were uploaded onto Facebook.



Onslow Belmont Fire Fighters and Colchester Hazardous Material Units left the scene between 6:00 and 6:30PM, with CN Transportation Services remaining by the disable train with crossing lights flashing. (Harrington Photo)



OBFB's UTV was dispatched to the scene in case rescue was necessary. The accident happened at approximately 4:10 pm on March 20th. (Clair Peers Photo)



The train stopped just past the crossing in Belmont allowing easy access for Colchester Hazardous Material Units and Onslow Belmont Fire Fighters. (Harrington Photo)



Onslow-Belmont Fire Brigade and EHS were quick to respond to the VIA train accident at the level crossing in Belmont. (Clair Peers Photo)



Colchester Hazardous Material Units leaving the scene about 6:30PM on March 20th. (Harrington Photo)

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3,700 Offers Made to Skilled Workers

By Maurice Rees

The Atlantic Growth Strategy - an initiative of Governments of Canada and the Atlantic Provinces is helping to map the region's clean energy future and develop more sustainable, reliable and affordable electricity for all Atlantic Canadians.

With these goals in mind, federal ministers, Atlantic premiers and Minister Thompson met in Halifax on March 1st to discuss the positive impact of the Atlantic Growth Strategy. They also agreed on areas of co-operation to continue to create good-paying jobs for the middle class. In addition to clean energy, discussions included growing the region's food industry, pursuing regulatory alignment, and addressing persistent skills gaps.

ATLANTIC CANADA'S ENERGY FUTURE

Building on the recent Council of Atlantic Premiers' and First Ministers' meetings, the Leadership Committee discussed the importance of clean power to Atlantic Canada's economy and the livelihoods of Atlantic Canadians.

They agreed on the need to produce and use more clean power in the region, while ensuring that electricity remains both reliable and affordable; working together to improve transmission networks and better integrate markets. Recognizing the importance of regional collaboration, for the first time in history, governments agreed to develop a Clean Power Roadmap for Atlantic Canada. The roadmap will outline a collective vision for how jurisdictions can collaborate, over the coming decades, to build a clean power network across the region by creating a system-wide plan to provide economic and environmental benefits.

It will inform how governments invest in electricity infrastructure including transmission interconnections, next-generation renewable energy technologies such



than \$6.1 billion in food and seafood to markets worldwide, an increase of close to 8 per cent since 2015. Ministers and premiers announced a commitment to work with Atlantic Canada's seafood, food and

as tidal energy, smart grids and energy storage, and electric vehicle charging networks. The development of the roadmap will be overseen by an

Atlantic Clean Power Planning Committee, consisting of senior officials, working with utilities.

REGULATORY ALIGNMENT will include laying the groundwork for growth in several industries, including food and transportation. Federal, provincial and territorial officials are developing a process to assess whether provincial and territorial food inspection systems are equivalent to, or exceed, federal standards. This work is on track, with the goal of completing the framework for the assessment this summer.

GROWING THE FOOD INDUSTRY recognized Atlantic Canada's food industry is one of the region's largest economic engines. In 2017, Atlantic Canada exported more

food-processing industries to achieve higher growth and help companies seize more export and growth opportunities.

ATLANTIC IMMIGRATION PILOT has resulted in the region attracting more newcomers and their families. Since the launch of the Atlantic Immigration Pilot, employers in Atlantic Canada have made more than 3,700 job offers to skilled workers.

To maintain this momentum, an extension of the program to December 2021. Strategic program changes will increase the number of eligible applicants from key populations, give Atlantic provinces greater flexibility to respond to their labour needs, including in the health care sector, and ensure all foreign nationals arriving under this program can permanently settle in the region.

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