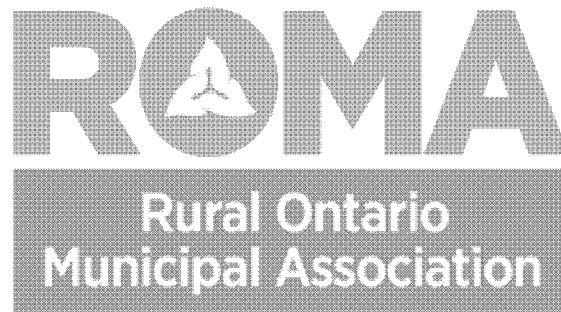


Emily Lutz

From: ROMA Communications <roma@roma.on.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 6:00 pm
To: Emily Lutz
Subject: ROMA trains and drains advocacy moves forward

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ROMA's legal intervention on trains and drains moves forward

ROMA has formally submitted legal evidence on behalf of rural municipalities into the dispute over drainage costs with national railways. Court dates to examine the evidence are set for mid-May.

This is a major milestone in ROMA's legal intervention on this matter. ROMA was granted intervenor status in late 2024 in a case involving Chatham-Kent and CP rail before Ontario's Court of the Drainage Referee, an appeal body established through the *Drainage Act*.

The [legal affidavit](#) summarizes the impact of railway behaviour on rural municipalities. Importantly, the court will hear about constitutional issues at the heart of the case – namely the responsibility of federally regulated industries to respect provincial laws.

Based on ROMA's research, unpaid maintenance costs from CP and other railways are more than \$500,000 and the tab for unpaid capital construction projects is crossing \$1 million. About \$1.7 million in construction projects have been delayed due to lack of cooperation by railway companies



“ROMA collaborated with many rural municipalities to put forward a compelling story. Our story illustrates national corporate railways’ systemic disregard for the laws that have governed drainage in Ontario for 150 years, and the financial, economic, and environmental impact it is having on rural communities. The steady progress that we are making in this fight shows what rural municipalities are capable of when we work together.”

-ROMA Chair Christa Lowry

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