

# The Railway Association of Canada Websites

## 1. Railway Association of Canada (RAC) [www.railcan.ca](http://www.railcan.ca)



The RAC website has been designed to play an integral enabling role in the RAC's objectives in promoting the safety, viability, and growth of the Canadian railway industry. It provides factual information for the public, government and industry on freight and passenger (intercity, tourist, and commuter) railways operating in Canada. The site includes publications which outline the views of the industry on public policy issues, and technical material such as rules and regulations. It handles some 20,000 document downloads/views per month by users from different levels of government, a variety of organizations and the general public. Included within are the following sections:

- **The RAC:** Synopsis of rail in Canada, the RAC's role, information on the 60 some members of the RAC, selected RAC brochures which provide an overview of various aspects of railway operations, and a corporate directory.
- **News:** Postings of the most current press releases and other news items of interest related to the industry; and a historical archive of items posted – from 2001 to the present.
- **Products:** RAC publications, Annual Reports, quarterly newsmagazine, presentations, submissions and multimedia products on a variety of policy, public affairs, advocacy, operational and other related issues that promote rail's advantages to ensure fair treatment among all transportation modes.
- **Legislation:** Postings of, and links to, various railway-related Acts, Rules, Regulations, Orders and Circulars.
- **Operations:** Information related to the RAC's role in regulatory rule-making; the railway radio spectrum; dangerous goods activities; mechanical services; the Canadian Operation Lifesaver and Direction 2006 programs; environmental, training and safety initiatives; and assisting members, particularly the short lines, on industry related matters.
- **Statistics:** A 10-year statistical and financial overview of Canada's railway industry in html, pdf and spreadsheet formats. The data and tables are from the RAC annual publication *Railway Trends*.

Other sections include *various railway related links*, information on careers in rail, and details on how railways become an RAC member. The right hand sides of the various subject pages include links to featured items, and names of pertinent RAC contacts.

## 2. The RAC Members site (password access only)



The RAC public website includes a private component that provides vital and timely information to RAC members on committee activities, and policy, advocacy, operational and other related issues that may be pertinent to their on-going business activities. Accessible by individual user password only, the section allows instantaneous downloading of pertinent information, reduces manual processing, and provides reference capability.

The mapping of the various subject areas and their menus are similar in format to the public website. Buttons along the left side allow members to easily navigate different areas of the site. Sub-sections are accessed via additional dropdown menus. Additional buttons appear at top, and the right hand side of the various subject pages includes contacts and links to other areas of interest. The sections include:

- **Committees:** Meeting communiqués, agendas, minutes, and supporting materials – by committee; contact information on individual committee members is also provided.
- **Directory:** Contact details for the RAC Board of Directors, RAC staff and members; and other relevant organizations.
- **News:** Sub-sections include RAC news items of specific interest to members; *OnTRAC* (a news service updated daily for RAC members); a calendar of events involving RAC members and/or staff; job postings of selected positions; and quarterly provincial economic forecast reports produced by the Conference Board of Canada.
- **Policy/Advocacy; Operations (Regulatory Affairs, Dangerous Goods, Radio Spectrum, and Mechanical Services):** Each of these RAC areas includes sub-sections which provide a variety of RAC materials such as reports, presentations, submissions, draft rules, circulars, legislation developments and statistical data.
- **Products:** This section includes information on products and services provided by industry suppliers.

*The RAC has also developed and maintains the following affiliated websites:*

**3. The Institute of Railway Technology (IRT) [www.irtcanada.net](http://www.irtcanada.net)**



The website's primary objective is to raise awareness and provide supporting information on the IRT, a Railway Association of Canada funded initiative, whose role is preparing people for a challenging career in the rail industry. The target audience is predominantly young (late-teens to early-twenties) – and not those already in the industry. A secondary objective is to provide a platform for prospective employment – from both the employee and employer perspectives.

**4. Canada By Rail (CBR) [www.canadabyrail.ca](http://www.canadabyrail.ca)**



The website is one-stop shopping for tourist rail and rail-related attractions. It represents the first time Canadian tourist, commuter and intercity passenger railways and other rail attraction providers have joined together to develop products intended to enhance rail awareness and tourist accessibility in all regions of the country. The targeted audience is the national and international traveling public.

**5. Railway/Municipality Proximity Issues [www.proximityissues.ca](http://www.proximityissues.ca)**



Railways and the communities they serve share common objectives. However, a number of issues can arise when they are in close proximity to each other. To enable better communication between all the parties involved, the RAC and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities have initiated this website as an information base of railway and municipal contacts, and proximity related reference information. It is intended to help the Canadian public and railway, municipal, government and other industry officials increase their awareness of emerging proximity issues and provide direction on their successful resolution.

**6. Operation Lifesaver (OL) [www.operationlifesaver.ca](http://www.operationlifesaver.ca)**



The website's primary objective is to raise awareness and provide supporting information on the efforts of OL, a national public education program sponsored by the Railway Association of Canada and Transport Canada. OL works in co-operation with the Canada Safety Council, provincial safety councils/leagues, railway companies, unions, police, public and community groups to educate the public about the dangers near and around railway tracks, and to reduce the needless loss of life, injuries and damages caused by highway/railway crossing collisions and train/pedestrian incidents. It includes a special section for children. The target audience is the Canadian public – children and adults.

**7. Direction 2006 (D2006) [www.direction2006.com](http://www.direction2006.com)**



The website's primary objective is to raise awareness and provide supporting information on the efforts of D2006, a partnership created in 1996 between all levels of government, railway companies, public safety organizations, police, unions and community groups to reduce highway/railway crossing collisions and trespassing incidents by 50 per cent by the year 2006. The target audience is the public, government, industry and other organizations.