

# Corporate Overview

VIA Rail operates Canada's national passenger rail service on behalf of the Government of Canada. An independent Crown Corporation established in 1977, we provide Canadians with a safe, efficient and environmentally responsible passenger service, operating year-round to over 450 communities, both large and small, including many where rail travel is the only transportation service available. We do this by delivering quality service to our customers, by maximizing revenues and controlling costs, and by building on the market strengths of passenger rail – one of the safest, most reliable and environmentally sustainable modes of transportation available.

## OUR SERVICES, COAST TO COAST

We operate up to 492 trains weekly on 12,500 kilometres of track, connecting over 450 Canadian communities. With approximately 3,000 employees, VIA carried 4.1 million passengers over 888 million passenger-miles in 2005.

In Western Canada, VIA provides year-round, all-weather intercity transportation, including service to remote communities. The legendary Western transcontinental train the *Canadian*<sup>®</sup> provides service thrice weekly between Toronto and Vancouver.

In the Quebec City-Windsor corridor, VIA's trains provide intercity passengers with fast, convenient, comfortable and affordable service, downtown-to-downtown, between Canada's largest business centres.

In Eastern Canada, the *Ocean*<sup>™</sup> runs six times a week between Montreal and Halifax, offering its friendly *Easterly*<sup>™</sup> class service from May to October. The *Chaleur*<sup>™</sup> makes three trips each week from Montreal through the Gaspé Peninsula.

In rural and remote areas, VIA operates services designated by the government to meet regional transportation needs.