



Sent via email to: [jeanjacques.ruest@cn.ca](mailto:jeanjacques.ruest@cn.ca)

March 29, 2022

Jean-Jacques Ruest  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
CN Rail  
935 de la Gauchetière Street West  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
H3B 2M9

Dear Mr. Ruest,

The framework through Ontario's *Drainage Act* supports agricultural productivity by reducing nutrient loss and soil on farmlands. It also provides environmental and economic benefits such as reducing flooding and increasing crop productivity and enhances natural habitats.

More than 45,000 km of municipal drains service nearly 2 million hectares of cropland in Ontario. As a result, drainage of agricultural land is critical as it removes excess water collected by roadside ditches, residential lots, schools, industrial and commercial lands, and any other properties in the surrounding areas.

The Ontario's *Drainage Act* establishes the process of how public utilities, including railways, participate in drainage. Railways along with other landowners benefit from and have participated in the *Drainage Act* process for decades.

That is why we are writing to amplify our support of the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)'s [letter](#) dated December 23, 2021. As Minister Thompson states in her letter, "Given that federally regulated railways are indeed subject to the *Drainage Act*, we expect CN Rail to pay its costs as assessed under the *Drainage Act* and not to hinder the progress of these projects or others in the future."

Municipal governments across Ontario are experiencing significant issues with drainage maintenance work, construction of new drains, and the collection of assessed costs to Railways for the *Drainage Act*. It is our hope that CN Rail will comply with the *Drainage*

Act so that municipalities and our taxpayers are not left carrying the costs of these works that should be borne by railways.

Sincerely,

Sandy Shantz

Mayor of the Township of Woolwich

Council of the Township of Woolwich

- cc. [Mayor Jamie McGarvey](#), President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Mayor of the Town of Parry Sound  
[Mayor Robin Jones](#), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Chair, Village of Westport  
[Hon. Omar Alghabra](#), Minister of Transport  
[Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau](#), Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
[Hon. Lisa Thompson](#), Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
[Hon. Caroline Mulroney](#), Minister of Transportation  
[Hon. Steve Clark](#), Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
[Mike Harris](#), Kitchener-Conestoga MPP  
[Tim Louis](#), Kitchener- Conestoga MP