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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Initial agreement signed to transfer rail line to Pontiac and Renfrew Counties**

*Freight and eventual commuter part of the service plan*

### **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Ottawa, ON Nov. 23, 2010) - CN and Transport Pontiac-Renfrew (TPR) have signed an Agreement-in-Principle to start the process enabling TPR to acquire a railway line known as the Beachburg Subdivision. The line runs from Pembroke east through the Pontiac and into Ottawa.

“This initial agreement is a big step in the acquisition process,” says Transport Pontiac-Renfrew director Louise Donaldson. “Some specifics of the deal still need to be worked out, but the parties are eager to complete the transaction.”

Formed in 2009, Transport Pontiac-Renfrew is a not-for-profit corporation with a mission to acquire the line and develop and operate increasing levels of freight service. Following launch of the freight operation, TPR plans to introduce commuter / passenger service along with possible tourist excursions. The initiatives will help bolster the economies of local communities and improve the economic livelihood of their residents.

“Rail is key to revitalizing our communities,” says Donaldson. “It’ll serve as a major benefit when courting new industry, plus, it will attract future rail-served clients which in turn will create jobs.” Donaldson adds that regular dependable commuter service into Ottawa is another plus. “It will encourage people to move back into the region.”

From 1998 to 2008, the railway line and several other railway properties including Ottawa Central Railway were owned by Chemins de fer du Québec. CN reacquired CFQ in late 2008. The Beachburg Sub had been subsequently placed on CN’s abandonment list.

Community Futures agencies in both Renfrew County and Pontiac have maintained their support and commitment to the initiative. “The railway is a lifeline for the region,” says Donaldson, “our economic health now and future growth absolutely depend on it.”

Negotiations are ongoing with both parties looking forward to an official transfer of the line in early 2011.

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