



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

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PETITION No.: **421-01160**

BY: **MRS. HUGHES (ALGOMA-MANITOULIN-KAPUSKASING)**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 22, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE MARC GARNEAU**

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Response by the Minister of Transport

SIGNATURE  
Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Rail transportation**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

Thank you for expressing your concerns with respect to passenger rail service in the Sault Ste. Marie to Hearst corridor.

Transport Canada's Remote Passenger Rail Program is focused on remote rail services providing access to established, year-round communities where the railway is the only means of surface transportation.

The established year-round communities located along this rail corridor (specifically Sault Ste. Marie, Hearst and Hawk Junction) have paved highway access to the national transportation network. As such, the recently proposed reinstatement of the passenger rail service, the Mask-wa-Oo-ta-ban: Bear Train, is not eligible for funding under the program.

It is apparent the Mask-wa-Oo-ta-ban: Bear train along with local stakeholders are taking important steps in finding a solution for passenger rail service in the Sault Ste. Marie – Hearst corridor.

As per the Minister of Transport's instruction, departmental officials from Transport Canada continue to have discussions with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and the Chief of the Missanabie Cree with the understanding that Transport Canada's role in the service is limited to the administration of the Railway Safety Act.