

SENIOR DIRECTOR PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

The Railway Association of Canada (RAC) is the national industry association representing close to 60 freight and passenger railway companies – railways that transport millions of passengers and approximately \$380 billion worth of goods across our country each year – as well as a growing number of industrial railways and railway supply companies as associate members.

Canada's railways power our economy and move Canada. RAC's mission is to educate and collaborate with members, governments, and communities to ensure that Canada's rail sector is recognized as one of the safest, most competitive, and sustainable in the world, and as playing a critical role in our lives and our economy.

The Railway Association of Canada (RAC) is looking to fill the position of **Senior Director Public and Government Affairs**.

Reporting to the President and CEO and working in a team environment, you will proactively develop, coordinate, and carry out advocacy initiatives that protect and advance the interests of the railway industry.

As an ideal candidate, you will have strong leadership qualities and interpersonal skills with solid experience in managing a team and meeting deadlines in an advocacy and public policy context.

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to submit their resume in confidence by **July 4, 2025** to kkuplais@railcan.ca with a **covering letter** describing their interest and suitability for the position.

The Railway Association of Canada is an equal opportunity employer committed to the principles of employment equity and inclusion. We welcome applications from all qualified individuals.

We thank applicants for their interest, however, only those advancing in the process will be contacted.

OVERVIEW

The Senior Director, Public and Government Affairs will have lead responsibility for overseeing advocacy functions namely the public affairs, policy, government relations, communications, membership, and industry research activities of the Association.

These functions are governed by the policies established by the RAC Board of Directors, the Policy and Advocacy Committee (PAC) and are supported by professional staff members and subject-matter experts. The role of the Senior Director is to structure the work of the team in the design, development and implementation of engagement with key stakeholders, with input and support of RAC members and the Association's leadership team.

Working closely with the President and CEO of the Association, this role involves the establishment of strategies relating to engagement with key stakeholders and the Canadian public about the rail industry and its contribution to the economy.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Responsible for the development, coordination, and implementation of engagement plans to raise the level of industry knowledge and influence federal/provincial government policies, programs, legislation and regulations affecting railways;
- Direct a contact program with an extensive network of stakeholders, including federal government and provincial officials at all levels as required, national business and shipper organizations, key influencers, industry partners and the media and leverage these relationships to protect and advance railway industry interests;
- Structure and organize the work of the team to complete on time the various deliverable items associated with the engagement plan (such as letters, submissions, remarks, Op-Ed, Qs/As, and other input)
- Develop, consolidate, submit, and sometimes present, on behalf of the industry, submissions, input and or advice to various regulatory agencies including Transport Canada, Transportation Safety Board, Canadian Transportation Agency, Environment Canada, Human Resources Development Canada, Industry Canada, the National Research Council, and other Federal, Provincial and Municipal departments.
- Identify relevant public policy issues and trends for the industry and provide strategic advice as to actions that need to be taken. Must be adept with modern communications and public policy management standards and practices;
- Ensure the RAC is providing a high level of association services to its Rail and Associate membership;
- Provide leadership and coordination for the Policy and Advocacy General Committee (PAC) in its direction and support of RAC operating activities, its related priorities, strategies, and project approvals. As well, provide support and direction to various sub-committees to ensure they are properly aligned and focused to develop and meet deliverables as determined by PAC.

STATUS AND SCOPE/AUTHORITY

The position reports to the President and CEO.

The position maintains broad contacts at senior levels within railway member companies and with other stakeholders.

Level of Responsibility is largely self-directed within policy and budgets authorized by the President and CEO.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

- University degree with emphasis in communications, political science, business, economics and/or public policy administration;
- A minimum of 10-15 years in the field of communications and public affairs;
- Significant experience in staff management with a proven record of mentorship and development of junior colleagues;
- Knowledge of the public policy process;
- Impeccable verbal and written communications skills essential. Expertise with digital communications is an asset;
- Active listener, facilitator, and strong relationship manager;
- Ability to diplomatically deal with member needs and provide leadership skills to resolve conflict in a team-based environment;
- Ability to actively and directly lobby designated elected and non-elected public office officials;
- Experience within an industry association would be an asset;
- Fluency in English and in French (written and oral) is essential.

WORKING CONDITIONS

- Position is headquartered in Ottawa ON with regular in-person presence;
- Moderate travel required;
- Manage multiple activities against aggressive timelines.