

National Office
2717 Wentz Ave.
Saskatoon, Sask.
S7K 4B6
Tel (306) 652-9465
Fax (306) 664-6226
E-Mail: nfu@nfu.ca



national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

FEBRUARY 1, 2008

RAILWAY BRANGLINES, SHORTLINES AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

FREE PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 – BRANDON, MB

Many rural communities in southern Manitoba are concerned about the abandonment and destruction of railway branchlines. The removal of railway service is placing tremendous pressure on the municipal and provincial road systems.

A one-day symposium on “Railway Branchlines, Shortlines and the Future of Rural Communities”. The symposium will be held Saturday, February 16, 2008 in the Lewis Whitehead Lecture Theatre (212 Clark Hall) at Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba. The symposium will begin at 10:00 AM and conclude at 4:30 PM, with a one-hour break at noon.

The purpose of the symposium is to determine the economic consequences of the loss of rail service, and to explore alternatives and propose solutions. Saskatchewan has a number of successful shortline operations that have taken root in the last ten years. Would this model work in other provinces?

We invite you to come to this symposium and participate in the discussions. It is being organized by Brandon University Economics Department and the National Farmers Union (NFU).

For further information, please call the National Farmers Union office at 306-652-9465

Railway Branchlines, Shortlines and the Future of Rural Communities:

A symposium on retaining rail service in rural prairie communities

*Sponsored by the National Farmers Union
and the Brandon University Department of Economics*

Saturday, February 16, 2008

**Lewis Whitehead Lecture Theatre [212 Clark Hall]
Brandon University, Brandon, Manitoba**

Agenda

10:00 AM – Call to Order: Chair – **Ian Robson**

10:05 AM - Welcome and Introduction: **Fred Tait**, NFU Manitoba Coordinator

10:15 AM – Economics of Transportation Infrastructure in Rural Communities: Professor **Joe Dolecki**, Brandon University Department of Economics

10:30 AM – Railways and the grain transportation revenue cap: **Bruce McFadden**, Quorum Corporation [Grain Handling and Transportation Monitor]

11:00 – **Stewart Wells**, President, National Farmers Union

11:15 AM – **Doug Dobrowolski**, Vice-President, Association of Manitoba Municipalities

11:30 AM – Establishing and Maintaining Shortline Railways in Saskatchewan

11:45 – Lunch Break

1:00 PM – **Mervin Tweed MP**, Souris-Brandon Constituency [Invited]

1:15 PM - Producer Cars and shortline railways: **Paul Beingessner** [Southern Rails Co-operative], **Lonny McKague** [Red Coat Road and Rail], **Ron Shymanski** [Nipawin-Choiceland branch line group], **Bill Davison** [Hudson Bay Route Association]

3:00 PM – Grain transportation and grain marketing: **Bill Nicholson** [CWB Director]

3:30 PM – [Discussion on future proposals for Manitoba shortlines]

4:15 PM – Concluding remarks: **Bev Stow**, NFU Manitoba Board member

4:30 PM - Adjourn