



StandOurGround.ca NEWSLETTER

Issue 010 - June 2026

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Russell Township Council Meeting Monday, June 8 at 6 p.m.

A Motion was put forward by Councillors Lisa Deacon and Charles Armstrong on May 23, 2026 to propose a buffer zone between the Industrial Park and residences on Eadie Road to be discussed at the June 8 Council meeting (717 Notre-Dame Street, Embrun). **We ask, if you can, please attend this meeting to show your support for this Motion.** If you cannot attend please call or email your Russell Council members in support of this Motion.

Save our Communities from Urban Sprawl!!

Resistance Rising against Alto Parliament Hill Rally - Wednesday, June 10

Resistance is rising quickly against the proponents of the Alto high speed rail concept and **a rally will be held on Parliament Hill on Wednesday, June 10 from noon to 3:30 p.m.** Rules for attendance are [here](#).

Parliament's summer recess starts June 20th, so all MPs should be in the House and will be made aware of the growing anger of Canadians pushed to the edge – again! – by wasteful government policies.

Dozens of community information sessions and rallies have taken place across the threatened region and over 17,000 people signed MP Scott Reid's petition to cancel the project. Versions of No Alto signs are available in most communities near the proposed "corridor" and almost all municipalities along the way have made official statements against Alto. The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus has released a statement of opposition from all rural municipalities. UCPR Warden Mario Zanth announced that the United Counties of Prescott and Russell is denying all Alto's requests for entry on UCPR lands.

Numerous social media groups have popped up and Eastern Ontario lawyer Erin Durant has produced outstanding research looking into how this travesty secretly evolved. (Available on most social media sites including Substack.)

The results are shocking (who'd have thought we could still be shocked?)

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Turns out that plans for high frequency passenger rail (which people in the “corridor” have requested for decades) wasn’t sexy enough to sell, so VIA HFR (as it was previously called) hired the marketing firm Cossette Communications to “rebrand” the project with an “emphasis on speed”. Really? A marketing company (paid \$330,000 by the way) was who decided to ignore the high frequency VIA solution (costed at between \$10 and \$18 billion) and go with Alto High Speed instead? A marketing company is pushing the expropriations of thousands of properties including at least 2,500 food producing farms? A marketing company has caused distress to tens of thousands of people? A marketing company’s idea means putting a 12-ft high, 65 m wide, 1,000 km long double WALL across southern Ontario and Quebec? A marketing company with zero knowledge of the area, the businesses, the land and soil, the communities, and obviously the environment, is why we’re in this situation? See? Shocking. Loose logic, impossible ridership projections, disrespect, lack of care, ignorance, the list of mistreatment goes on. How can elected representatives, including a PM whose career was built on understanding money, go along blindly with this? How do they not recognize spin, misrepresentation, and outright lies?

Residents from Mirabel to Carlsbad Springs have seen strange painted Xs and dots with numbers on roads as well as drones flying over their properties. TransPlan, the company marking the roads, first denied the work was connected to Alto, but later had to admit it was. So already the lies are in place. (To be fair, the whole project has been one big lie from beginning to end but these are specific, “No, it was not us” to “Well, yes, it was us.”) Residents are encouraged to report all drones to Transport Canada to see if they have filed flight plans and find out what those flight plans are.

Many community groups have held public rallies and information meetings, each of which has been attended by hundreds of people. Groups have also had meetings with MPs. In recent community meetings both Giovanna Mingarelli and Bruce Fanjoy made similar statements promoting Alto as “transformative” and “necessary”, reiterating Alto’s own claims.

Both MPs said they “sympathized with” and “understood” residents’ concerns, particularly farmers, and both described the Alto consultations as terrible, but neither said they would speak out against the project or against Bill C-15 which gave extraordinary powers of expropriation to Alto. They also seemed to expect that once the final route was set people would be “relieved” if it was not on their property.

It’s well known that rural communities have strong ties to neighbouring communities through economics, interests and blood. Why would a politician think someone won’t be upset if their property is untouched but their brother or friend or cousin’s lives are upended, property devalued and business ruined? Where is the understanding? The empathy? The realization that these newly elected backbenchers are likely to lose their seats in the next election because they toed the party line?

A gentle reminder to MPs – Pierre Poilievre, a seasoned politician and party leader with 20 years of holding the same riding LOST to Fanjoy because he did not listen to his constituents. He did not defend the community against the Taggart Miller dump or Tewin development. He did not respond to questions – did not even send a simple email statement. With the Carleton and PRC ridings now targeted by Alto should they not be standing up for constituents regardless of instructions from the PMO?

In early May MP Shelby Kramp-Neuman also presented several petitions with thousands of signatures of concerned Constituents calling on the government to immediately halt the ALTO high-speed rail project. She said, “*These petitions raise serious concerns about heavy-handed expropriation, the division of communities, soaring costs and the questionable benefits of the project. I want to sincerely thank the countless citizens across Hastings Lennox – Addington Tyendinaga who continue to speak out and raise awareness about the negative consequences this project could have on their communities.*”

Meanwhile MP Reid has started a **new** petition to go to the Ministry of Transport, House of Commons e-petition: e-7458 which is open until September 25, 2026. Sign it at <https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Home/Index>.

See you on the Hill at noon on June 10th!

StandOurGround.ca welcomes your feedback, counterarguments, photographs, and written submissions for our Newsletter. Kindly inform us if you would like your Letter to the Editor to remain anonymous.

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