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Changes will help resolve rail crossing disputes

Bill 13 also sets time limit to appeal Railway Administrator decisions

Edmonton... Road authorities and provincial railways will gain a way to resolve cost-sharing issues relating to road-rail crossing maintenance.

Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, introduced Bill 13 in the Alberta Legislature today. Bill 13 amends the *Railway (Alberta) Act* and gives road authorities (mainly municipalities) and railways a mechanism to resolve cost-sharing disputes relating to the maintenance of existing road-rail crossings. Currently, the Act only governs disputes regarding construction of new crossings.

"The amendment fills a legislative gap and gives municipalities and railway operators an option to resolve crossing disputes without having to resort to the courts," said Dr. Oberg. "The new mechanism can resolve disputes quicker, which assists public safety at these crossings."

Either the municipality or the railway operator may apply to the Land Compensation Board for a ruling if the two parties are unable to reach an agreement to share the cost of maintaining crossings.

Bill 13 also sets a 30-day limit to appeal decisions made by the provincial Railway Administrator. The Alberta Transportation Safety Board deals with these appeals and the 30-day limit is consistent with other appeal limits to the Board.

The *Railway (Alberta) Act* governs the safe construction and operation of short-line, industrial and amusement railways under provincial jurisdiction.

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