

Dion should back new railways

Re: "Dion allocates \$900 million for fuel-saving incentives" (Gazette, Sept. 4).

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<http://www.canada.com/montrealgazette/news/letters/story.html?id=ac995c19-9e72-4d59-8917-ef2b43880584>

Re: "Dion allocates \$900 million for fuel-saving incentives" (Gazette, Sept. 4).

Liberal leader Stéphane Dion's heart is in the right place when it comes to climate change and environmental protection, but his announcement of tax breaks to the trucking industry runs counter to the creation of a less carbon-intensive economy.

Given that railways are much more energy efficient, less polluting and less carbon emitting, shouldn't they be given even a bigger tax break? Electrification of railway trunk lines and the introduction of green hybrid diesel-electric locomotives are the way to go.

The publicly financed highway system has encouraged sprawl, destruction of natural spaces and the abandonment of many strategic railway lines. Canada should follow the lead of Western Europe, Japan and other countries to conserve, rebuild and restore its freight and passenger rail network.

Avrom David Shtern

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