Northlander Passenger Rail

BACKGROUNDER



Ontario Northland

November 19, 2026

Bringing the Northlander back

- The Ontario government is bringing the Northlander passenger rail service back, after it was cancelled in 2012.
- The service will span over 800 kilometres between Toronto and Cochrane, serving a total of 16 stops.
- The Northlander will provide improved access to essential services, such as health care and education, while supporting economic prosperity and tourism in the region, strengthening the connection between the north and the south.
- The return of the Northlander will begin service on December 10, 2026, operating four roundtrips per week.
- As the Northlander is reintroduced, the service will be refined.
- Tickets will be available online, by phone and in person starting November 26.



Track work

Ongoing track improvements, service and schedule refinement will continue as service is reintroduced. As a result, temporary speed restrictions and delays are expected-while work is completed.

Corridor-wide improvements

- Rehabilitation of rail infrastructure will continue along the corridor, to improve stability, speed and long-term reliability.
- Curve adjustments in select locations have been completed to support smoother, more efficient operations.
- Rail crossing safety upgrades, such as new warning systems, gates and signage, as well as signal and infrastructure improvements to support safe passenger and freight operations.
- The Province's $138-million investment secured 206 kilometres of railway between North Bay and Washago, improving reliability and boosting northern economic growth.



Shelter and station work

Stops and terminals

- Cochrane, Englehart and North Bay stations are open and operational.
- Stations have received accessibility upgrades and platform improvements including enhancements to waiting areas, washrooms, lighting, wayfinding signage and more.
- Continued stop construction includes upgrades to platforms, installation of new passenger shelters and the construction of a new Timmins-Porcupine Station, which will improve connections with motor coach and regional transit services.
- Work will continue at select stop locations after service begins. Passengers will be able to board and disembark at all 16 designated Northlander stops from the start of service.
- Where construction remains underway, work areas will be separated from passenger areas and temporary access arrangements or signage will be provided as needed.

Northlander station work status as of November 19, 2026	
Stop	**Status**
Cochrane	Complete
Timmins-Porcupine	Construction continues into 2027
Matheson	Complete
Kirkland Lake (Swastika)	Complete
Englehart	Complete
Temiskaming Shores	Complete
Temagami	Complete
North Bay	Complete
South River	Ongoing
Huntsville	Ongoing
Bracebridge	Ongoing
Gravenhurst	Ongoing
Washago	Ongoing
Gormely	NA
Langstaff	NA
Union Station	NA

Increased service

The Northlander schedule was developed through consultations with communities along the corridor, which indicated a preference for morning arrival in Toronto and an evening northbound departure.

Overnight timing reflects a single daily round trip while enabling daytime Toronto arrival.

Increased service will be explored in 2027, following launch of service.

Feedback on timing and usage patterns will be monitored post-launch and will inform any service enhancement to improve travel flexibility and scheduling options for all passengers.



What customers can expect

Passenger experience

- Each new trainset will feature 169 seats and modern amenities, including accessible seating and washrooms, wide aisles, Wi-Fi, charging ports and LED lighting.
- Flexible, accessible onboard design with multiple seating configurations, expanded overhead storage, and clear audio/visual announcements, plus onboard food and beverage service with dietary-friendly options (e.g., vegetarian, gluten-free).
- First-come, first-served parking available at each stop, including two accessible spots.
- Northlander+ is an upgraded travel option offering a variety of seating options such as spacious two-seat arrangements, single-aisle seats or an inviting pod setup featuring four seats and a table. Northlander+ passengers will also enjoy a meal and limited complimentary beverages included with their ticket price.



Service launch on December 10, 2026

Starting at Union Station on December 10, passengers will board the Northlander for its inaugural northbound departure, with the first train scheduled to depart at 6:30 p.m. Service will entail:

- Service to all 16 stops.
- Four northbound and southbound roundtrips per week.
- The Northlander will conveniently connect to the Polar Bear Express in Cochrane and various transit networks in Toronto, including GO Transit and the TTC.
- Feedback on timing and usage patterns will be monitored post-launch and inform future operational planning.



Northlander fares

- Passengers can purchase a Northlander ticket starting November 26, 2026, at 9:00am.
- Passengers can purchase tickets online, by phone or in person at agency locations and designated station stops in North Bay, Englehart, Timmins and Cochrane.
- Discounts are available to passengers who book travel in advance. Those booking more than four days in advance will access the lowest fares**.**
- Discounts are available to children, seniors over 60, students, military personnel, and passengers travelling for medical purposes and medically required travel companions.

Route	Adult	Senior (65+)	Student	Child (2-12)
Toronto to Cochrane	$188.40	$160.14	$160.14	$94.20
Toronto to Timmins	$181.67	$154.42	$154.42	$90.84
Toronto to North Bay	$109.70	$93.25	$93.25	$54.85
North Bay to Timmins	$108.94	$92.60	$92.60	$54.47
Toronto to Gravenhurst	$66.97	$56.92	$56.92	$33.49

Discounts will be offered to children, seniors (over 60), students, military personnel, and passengers travelling for medical purposes. Further discounts will be offered for roundtrips and group travel. Passengers who book in advance will receive the lowest available fares.