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## NEWS RELEASE

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Office of the Premier  
Ministry of Transportation

### **CANADA LINE BORED TUNNELS COMPLETED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE**

VANCOUVER – A critical phase of Canada Line construction was completed today when the project's 440-tonne tunnel boring machine (TBM) broke through the ground into the future site of Canada Line's Waterfront Station. The breakthrough completes the second of two side-by-side bored tunnels from just south of False Creek to just north of Pender Street in downtown Vancouver.

“This breakthrough represents an important milestone for this project, which will significantly improve transit service for people throughout the Lower Mainland,” said Premier Gordon Campbell. “I want to congratulate all of the workers for their hard work and dedication, and for completing this critical phase of the Canada Line without a single lost-time injury or accident. This transit expansion will help to encourage compact urban development, get people out of their cars, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, for the benefit of all British Columbians.”

“This successful project clearly demonstrates the benefits of public-private partnerships in large-scale transportation infrastructure projects,” said the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. “It also reflects the Government of Canada's commitment to improving public transit capacity.”

“This is a great moment to celebrate the vision, determination and skill of the workers, the project team, our region's leaders and our Canada Line partners” said TransLink chair Dale Parker. “Every one of them can be proud of this amazing accomplishment, and with the Premier's massive transit program, it's exciting to realize that we will be celebrating many more ‘breakthroughs’ for Metro Vancouver's transit system in the coming years.”

“Today's breakthrough means we're one step closer to providing a sustainable, efficient and convenient transportation option to YVR passengers and employees,” said Larry Berg, president and CEO, Vancouver Airport Authority. “When the Canada Line is operational in 2009, YVR will join just a handful of international airports with a rapid transit link to and from the city centre and communities between. This is an important connection, particularly as we prepare to welcome the world for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.”

“The Canada Line and the planned UBC Line are key pieces in achieving our public transportation goals for Vancouver,” said Vancouver mayor Sam Sullivan. “Fast, accessible transit with easy connections is one of the most important ways we can do our part in reducing urban sprawl while lowering our ecological footprint.”

With the completion of the second (inbound) tunnel, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue tunnel boring worksite will be transformed so that construction of the Canada Line station can proceed. While some station work has already taken place, the worksite has been used primarily for tunnel boring operations.

Approximately 20,000 pre-fabricated concrete tunnel lining segments have been used to construct the 5 kilometres of tunnel walls. The tunnel is 5.3 metres in internal diameter and varies in depth between 10 and 30 metres.

**About the Canada Line:**

The Canada Line rapid transit system will run fully separated from traffic between the transportation hub at Waterfront Centre in Vancouver, the heart of Richmond's civic precinct, and Vancouver International Airport. With 16 stations, two bridges, approximately 19 km of tunnel and elevated guideway, parking and bus facilities, and transit capacity equivalent to 10 road lanes, the Canada Line will be an important new link in the regional transportation network.

The Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia, the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority (TransLink), and Vancouver Airport Authority are funding the Canada Line, which is also supported by the cities of Vancouver and Richmond. The project is overseen by Canada Line Rapid Transit Inc. (CLCO). InTransitBC is the company contracted to design, build, operate, maintain and partially finance the Line.

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