

Tuesday's Letters: An ounce of prevention for rail safety

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Re: "Ottawa beefs up regulations for shipping crude by train," Feb. 21

This article misses the mark. More focus should be put on rail safety, not just the aftermath of disaster.

This is a huge issue, especially in rural Canada. Drive outside Edmonton any day, and you'll see freight trains speeding through the countryside, going through passive rail crossings with reflector signs only.

A 2014 Transportation Safety Board of Canada report stated that there have been 658 accidents over the last 10 years at passive crossings, resulting in 59 deaths and 107 serious injuries. The increased transport of oil by rail adds another layer of risk — not just deaths and injuries, but serious environmental impact.

While compensation funds are necessary, I'd like to see similar investment in the development of warning systems to prevent collisions and derailments in rural Canada.

Sarah Thacker, Edmonton