

Lou Parsons the chosen one

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Peel Bio. 22

Lou Parsons has become the first Canadian to be elected to a senior executive post with the American Public Transit Association (APTA).

its annual conference is held in Toronto. APTA represents several Canadian transit systems including several in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, and Alberta.

At its annual meeting in Houston last week, which was attended by 13,000 delegates, Parsons became the vice-president of the huge organization. It represents transit operators across North America who carry 12 billion passengers annually, as well as suppliers. Parsons, who was the founding chairman of the Region of Peel in 1974, has been chairman of GO Transit since 1980.

Parsons, a former ward 2 councillor, deputy-reeve of the town of Mississauga, and warden of Peel county, has served two five-year terms as head of GO. In July, he was appointed to an additional three-year term by the provincial government.

The local real estate broker will almost certainly become the chairman of APTA next year when

Regional chairmen in Metro Toronto and surrounding regions also sit on the GO board, which administers the system. Parsons' successor as Peel chairman, Frank Bean, is a member of the GO board.