**The Challenges of Building the Railway across Canada**

Source: Goodman, D.M., J.C., & Smith, T.A. (2007). *Voices of Canada: People, Places, and Possibilites.* Toronto, ON, Pearson Education.

A railway across Canada started as a dream. John A. MacDonald wanted the new country to **stretch** from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.

For his dream to come true, though, people would have to build 5000 **kilometers** of railway tracks across the **muskeg** of the **Shield** and through **mountains**. No one had ever built such a railway in Canada or anywhere else in the world. Many people thought it was an impossible dream. But once again, Canadians worked together to **identify** the **challenges** and discuss possible solutions.

**Solving Challenges**

The story of the railway was a story of great **determination**. People such as William Van Horne, Andrew Onderdonk, and Major A.B. Rogers wanted to make Sir John A. MacDonald’s dream come true.

William Van Horne was the chief **engineer** for the railway. Andrew Onderdonk was **in charge of** the British Columbia section of the railway.



Major A.B. Rogers was a surveyor who would not quit until he found a way, or a pass, through the **Rocky Mountains**. Each of these men believed the impossible could be done. They imagined what the country of Canada might look like. They **saw factories**, **mines**, and **mills**, and more cities and towns.