# Canadian Railroad Trilogy

Gordon Lightfoot 1967

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**INTRO: / 1 2 / 1 2 / [D] / [Am7] / [D] / [Am7]**

There **[D]** was a time in **[G]** this fair land

When the **[D]** railroad did not **[D]** run **[D]**

When the **[F#m]** wild majestic **[G]** mountains

Stood a-**[G6]**lone against the **[A]** sun **/ [Asus4][A] /**

**[D]** Long before the **[G]** white man, and **[D]** long before the **[D]** wheel **[D]**

When the **[D]** green, dark **[A]** forest

Was too **[C]** silent to be **[D]** real **/** **[Am7] / [D] / [Am7] / [D] / [D]**

But **[D]** time has no be-**[G]**ginnings

And the **[D]** history has no **[D]** bounds **[D]**

As **[F#m]** to this verdant **[G]** country

They **[G6]** came from all a-**[A]**round **/ [Asus4][A]**

They **[D]** sailed upon her **[G]** waterways

And they **[D]** walked the forests **[D]** tall **[D]**

Built the **[D]** mines, mills and the **[A]** factories

For the **[C]** good of us **[D]** all **/ [Am7] / [D] / [Am7] / [D] / [D]**

And **[D]** when the young man's **[G]** fancy

Was **[D]** turnin’ to the **[D]** spring **[D]**

The **[F#m]** railroad men grew **[G]** restless

For to **[G6]** hear the hammers **[Asus4]** ring **[A]**

Their **[D]** minds were over-**[G]**flowing

With the **[D]** visions of their **[D]** day **[D]**

And **[D]** many a fortune **[A]** lost and won

And **[C]** many a debt to **[D]** pay **[D] / [D] / [D]↓** for they **/** **< 4/4 TIME >**

**[A]** Looked in the future and **[Em]** what did they see

They saw an **[C]** iron road runnin’ from the **[D]** sea to the sea

**[A]** Bringin’ the goods to a **[Em]** young growin’ land

All **[C]** up from the seaports and **[D]** into their hands **[D]**

Look a-**[Am7]**way, said **[D]** they

A-**[Am7]**cross thismighty **[D]** land

From the **[Am7]** eastern **[D]** shore

To the **[Am7]** western **[D]** strand

**[A]** Bring in the workers, and **[Em]** bring up the rails

We gotta **[C]** lay down the tracks, and **[D]** tear up the trails

**[A]** Open her heart, let the **[Em]** life blood flow

Gotta **[C]** get on our way, 'cause we're **[D]** movin’ too slow

**[A]** Bring in the workers, and **[Em]** bring up the rails

We’re gonna **[C]** lay down tracks, and **[D]** tear up the trails

**[A]** Open her heart, let the **[Em]** life blood flow

Gotta **[C]** get on our way, 'cause we're **[D]** movin’ too slow

**[C]** Get on our way, 'cause we're **[Asus4]** movin’ too slow

**[Asus4] / [Asus4] / < SLOW 3/4 TIME > [Asus4]↓ 2 3 / [A7addG]↓** **2 3 /**

Be-**[D]**hind the blue **[D]** Rockies, the **[G]** sun is de-**[A7sus4]**clining

**[D]** The stars they come **[G]** stealing at the **[E7]** close of the **[A]** day **[A7]**

**[D]** Across the wide **[D]** prairie, our **[G]** loved ones lie **[A7sus4]** sleeping

**[D]** Beyond the dark **[G]** oceans in a **[A]** place far a-**[D]**way **[D]**

**[D7]** We are the **[D7]** navvies who **[G]** work upon the **[A7sus4]** railway

**[D]** Swingin’ our **[G]** hammers in the **[E7]** bright blazin’ **[A]** sun **[A]**

**[D]** Livin’ on **[D]** stew, and **[G]** drinkin’ bad **[A7sus4]** whiskey

**[D]** Bendin’ our **[G]** backs ‘til the **[A7sus4]** long days are **[D]** done **[D]**

**[D7]** We are the **[D7]** navvies who **[G]** work upon the **[A7sus4]** railway

**[D]** Swingin’ our **[G]** hammers in the **[E7]** bright blazin’ **[A]** sun **[A]**

**[D]** Layin’ down **[D]** track and **[G]** buildin’ the **[A7sus4]** bridges

**[D]** Bendin’ our **[G]** backs ‘til the **[A7sus4]↓** railroad **[A7]↓** …is **< 4/4 TIME >**

**[D]** done **/** **[Am7]** **/** **[D] / [Am7] /** **[D] /** **[D]**

So **[A]** over the mountains, and **[Em]** over the plains

**[C]** Into the muskeg, and **[D]** into the rain

**[A]** Up the St. Lawrence, all the **[Em]** way to Gaspé

**[C]** Swingin’ our hammers, and **[D]** drawin’ our pay

**[A]** Layin' 'em in, and **[Em]** tyin’ ‘em down

A-**[C]**way to thebunkhouse, and **[D]** into the town

A **[A]** dollar a day, and a **[Em]** place for my head

A **[C]** drink to the livin’, a **[A]** toast to the dead **/ [A][A7]** Oh the **/**

**[D]** Song of the **[Am7]** future has been **[D]** sung

All the **[Am7]** battles have been **[D]** won

On the **[Am7]** mountain tops we **[D]** stand

All the **[Am7]** world at our com-**[D]**mand

We have **[Am7]** opened up the **[D]** soil

With our **[Am7]↓** teardrops… and our **/** **< 2/4 TIME > [A7sus4]** toils **/**

**[A7sus4] / [A7sus4] / [A7sus4]**

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When the **[D]** green, dark **[A]** forest was too **[C]** silent to be **[D]** real **[D]**

And **[D]** many are the **[A]↓** dead men **< 2 / 1 2 >**

Too **[C]** silent **/ [C] / [Cmaj7] / [Cmaj7]**

To be **[D]** real **/ [Am7] / [D] / [Am7] /** **[D]↓**

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