

MANDATE OF THE BOARD

The Canadian National Railway Company's ("CN") Board of Directors (the "**Board**") has clearly delineated its role and the role of management. The role of the Board is to supervise the management of CN's business and affairs, with the objective of increasing shareholder value. Management's role is to conduct the day-to-day operations in a way that will meet this objective.

The Board approves all matters expressly required herein, under the Canada Business Corporations Act and other applicable legislation and CN's Articles and By-laws. The Board may assign to Board committees the prior review of any issues it is responsible for, or as required by applicable laws. Board committee recommendations are generally subject to Board approval. The Board has delegated the approval of certain matters to management pursuant to its Standing Resolutions on Delegation of Authority, as amended from time to time.

Meetings of the Board are held at least nine times a year and as necessary.

As part of its stewardship responsibility, the Board advises management on significant business issues and has the following responsibilities:

A. Approving CN's strategy

- adopting a strategic planning process, approving and reviewing, on at least an annual basis, a business plan and a strategic framework which take into account, among other things, the opportunities and risks of the business, and monitoring the implementation of the business plan by management.

B. Assessing and overseeing the succession planning of executive management

- choosing the President and Chief Executive Officer (the "**President and CEO**"), appointing executive management and monitoring President and CEO and executive management performance taking into consideration Board expectations and fixed objectives, approving the President and CEO's corporate goals and objectives and approving annually President and CEO and executive management compensation;
- ensuring that an appropriate portion of President and CEO and executive management compensation is tied to both the short and longer-term performance of CN;
- taking all reasonable steps to ensure that processes are in place for the recruitment, training, development and retention of executives who exhibit the highest standards of integrity as well as competence.

C. Monitoring Corporate Governance issues

- monitoring the size and composition of the Board to favour effective decision-making;
- taking all reasonable measures to satisfy itself as to the integrity of management and that management creates a culture of integrity throughout CN;

- monitoring and reviewing, as appropriate, CN's approach to governance issues and monitoring and reviewing, as appropriate, CN's Corporate Governance Manual and policies and measures for receiving shareholder feedback;
- taking all reasonable steps to ensure the highest quality of ethical standards, including reviewing, on a regular basis, the Code of Business Conduct applicable to CN's directors, its President and CEO, senior financial officers, other executives and employees, monitoring compliance with such code, approving any waiver from compliance with the code for directors and executive officers and ensuring appropriate disclosure of any such waiver;
- ensuring the regular performance assessment of the Board, Board committees, Board and committee chairs and individual directors and determining their remuneration;
- approving the list of Board nominees for election by shareholders and filling Board vacancies;
- adopting and reviewing orientation and continuing education programs for directors;
- overseeing the disclosure of a method for interested parties to communicate directly with the Board Chair or with the non-management directors as a group.

D. Monitoring financial matters and internal controls

- monitoring the quality and integrity of CN's accounting and financial reporting systems, disclosure controls and procedures, internal controls and management information systems, including by overseeing:
 - (i) the integrity and quality of CN's financial statements and other financial information and the appropriateness of their disclosure;
 - (ii) the review of CN's Audit Committee on external auditors' independence and qualifications;
 - (iii) the performance of CN's internal audit function and of CN's external auditors; and
 - (iv) CN's compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements (including those related to environment, safety and security);
- ensuring that an appropriate risk assessment process is in place to identify, assess and manage the principal risks of CN's business;
- adopting communications and disclosure policies and monitoring CN's investor relations programs.

E. Monitoring Pension Fund matters

- monitoring and reviewing, as appropriate, CN's pension fund policies and practices, including the investment policies of the Canadian National Railway Pension Trust

Funds or any other pension trust fund established in connection with a new pension plan or any other pension plan offered or administered by CN (the “**CN’s Pension Trust Funds**”);

- approving the annual budget of the Investment Division of CN’s Pension Trust Funds.

F. Monitoring environmental, safety and security matters

- monitoring and reviewing, as appropriate, CN’s environmental, safety and security policies and practices.

The non-executive Board members meet before or after every Board meeting without the presence of management and under the chairmanship of the Board Chair. If such group includes directors who are not Independent, an executive session including only Independent directors is held regularly.

Board members are expected to demonstrate a high level of professionalism in discharging their responsibilities. They are expected to attend the meetings of the Board and of the Board committees on which they sit and to rigorously prepare for and actively participate in such meetings. They should review all meeting materials in advance. They are also expected to be available to provide advice and counsel to the President and CEO or other corporate officers of CN upon request.

The Board annually reviews the adequacy of its mandate.