

2008 President's Awards for Excellence



Employees from across the company were recognized for outstanding achievement in 2008, with the President's Awards for Excellence. Their accomplishments in the five categories of Service, Cost Control, Asset Utilization, Safety and People made a real difference to CN.

Category: Service

Winner: *Canpotex Team: Brent Ballingall, system manager, Aboriginal Affairs, Kamloops, British Columbia; Allen Foster, director of marketing, Calgary, Alberta; Lonny Kubas, senior manager, Bulk Commercial, Winnipeg, Manitoba; Gurpreet Khaira, Sales Director, Calgary, Alberta*

This team demonstrated CN's value to Canpotex – the marketer of Western Canada potash producers – which resulted in it establishing an export potash facility using CN via the Port of Prince Rupert. When operational in 2012, the new facility will provide CN the opportunity for significant growth in carloads and revenues annually.

Winner: *Metro International Aluminum Team: Bill Albritton, superintendent, Urbana, Illinois; Jim Binder, manager, Business Development and Real Estate, Urbana, Illinois; Troy Stobaugh, track supervisor, Pontiac, Michigan; Waldemar Wolosiewicz, engineer, Technical Services, Pontiac, Michigan*

Michigan-based Metro International Trade Services urgently needed a local site to warehouse aluminum ingots. This team quickly identified the best facility, got the necessary redesign and construction work done and had it online in just three months. Their efforts resulted in substantial new revenue annually for CN.

Winner: *Margy Haines-Hitchcock, account manager, Surrey, British Columbia*

With a slumping forest products market, Margy devised a creative trade-off solution that benefits both CN and Tolko Industries, one of the company's largest customers, allowing CN to secure increased revenues.

Category: Cost Control

Winners: *Charles Garret, manager, Risk Mitigation, Memphis, Tennessee; Fady Mansour, director, Financial Planning, Montreal*

These two combined their strengths to ensure improved management of the asbestos claims process. Working together, the two developed and implemented a more effective strategy, resulting in dramatic savings over the last five years.

Winner: *Cashflow Team: Gary Mackay, supply manager, Montreal; Michelle Pelletier, agent, Asset Sales, Rail Cars, Montreal; Sue Pike, senior agent, Supply Management; Graham Smart, senior manager, Track, Edmonton, Alberta*

This team took the assignment of selling scrap rail, cars and locomotives to new levels in 2008, achieving record sales. Their diligent efforts resulted in a doubling of the 2007 figures, with a positive impact on cashflow, helping CN to meet and beat its target for 2008.

Category: Asset Utilization

Winner: *CN 15016 Team: Rick Tracy, lead machinist, Homewood, Illinois; Joseph Whitmer, senior reliability specialist, Homewood, Illinois*

Rick and Joseph worked for 18 months to develop a self-propelled geometry car. This bi-directional vehicle travels along the track, equipped with high-speed cameras and optical recognition software to detect possible flaws in joint bars that connect sections of rail. Testing of the car proved it to be a state of the art prototype which exceeded every expectation.

Winner: *LDVR & Wi-Tronix Team: Randy Harris, manager, Projects, Homewood, Illinois; Robert Leblanc, senior manager, Operations, Edmonton, Alberta*

In managing the purchase of digital cameras and Wi-Tronix technology for new locomotives, this team convinced two technology suppliers to join forces. The result is a system that reduces CN's risk exposure, with industry-leading capabilities for fleet performance monitoring and rapid response anywhere in North America.

Winner: *Strategic I/M Sales Team, Concord, Ontario: Russ Perdue, account manager, Overseas Markets; Jonathan Wahba, business development manager, Intermodal*

By forging relationships with Fortune 500 companies and steamship line customers, this team has secured tens of millions of dollars of new business for CN since 2007. Using an original technique, they have helped to sell a range of products that go beyond intermodal business, creating platforms for future growth in entirely new areas.

Category: Safety

Winner: *Dan Regnier, boom truck operator, Scotford, Alberta*

Dan came to the rescue of an elderly gentleman who was stuck while attempting to cross a railway track as a train approached. Dan was working nearby and ran over to carry the man to safety, saving the man's life.

Winner: *MacMillan Yard Mechanical Team, Concord, Ontario: Scott Chappell, mechanical supervisor; Frank Lafarciola, senior mechanical supervisor; Peter Malenfant, car mechanic*

This team came up with a forklift design that virtually eliminates all manual handling and lifting of a 250-pound knuckle replacement assembly. Their solution minimizes the risk of injury, replacing an unwieldy process used previously.

Winner: *CN Dangerous Goods Team: Bill Danks, dangerous goods officer, Vancouver, British Columbia; Bob Kirnan, system manager, Dangerous Goods, Montreal; Lee Nelson, dangerous goods officer, Stevens Point, Wisconsin; Greg Palmer, dangerous goods officer, Pontiac, Michigan*

These team members helped develop a groundbreaking outreach program that went on to win two prestigious safety awards. The program known as REACT (for Responder Education Assistance and Certification Training) is designed to train emergency responders in rural areas on how to deal with incidents involving dangerous goods.

Category: People

Winner: *CNRPA 2008 Negotiation Team: Kelly Brown, Constable and CNRPA National President, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Denis Laurendeau, manager, Human Resources, Montreal; Gerry St-George, Constable and CNRPA National Vice-President, Brampton; Régent St-Hilaire, manager, Administration, Montreal*

The 2008 CN-CNRPA (Canadian National Railways Police Association) negotiation team concluded a "win-win" collective agreement, well in advance of the expiration of the previous contract. The team's dedication, willingness to think "out of the box," find workable solutions and foster a better relationship, all contributed to this success.

Special Award – Terminal of the Year

Winner: *Memphis Terminal Team, Memphis, Tennessee*

During a complete refurbishment of their yard in 2008, the Memphis team had to learn the new system while ensuring they kept the trains moving on time. Working together, the team of 400 people maintained service, controlled costs with a 50 per cent reduction in overtime, increased fluidity and car velocity through better use of assets while putting extra focus on construction-related safety.