



North America's Railroad

NEWS RELEASE

CN announces new normal course issuer bid for share repurchase and 18 per cent dividend increase

MONTREAL, January 29, 2019 -- CN (TSX: CNR) (NYSE: CNI) announced today that its Board of Directors has approved the repurchase of its shares under a new normal course issuer bid (Bid) and approved an 18 per cent increase in the 2019 dividend on the Company's common shares outstanding.

The Bid permits CN to purchase, for cancellation, over a 12-month period up to 22 million common shares, representing 3.62 per cent of the 607,533,033 common shares issued and outstanding of the Company not held by insiders on Jan. 18, 2019. On that date, 726,568,390 CN common shares were issued and outstanding.

The Bid – starting on Feb. 1, 2019, and ending no later than Jan. 31, 2020 – will be conducted through a combination of discretionary transactions and automatic repurchase plans through the facilities of the Toronto and New York stock exchanges, or alternative trading systems, if eligible, and will conform to their regulations.

Ghislain Houle, CN executive vice-president and chief financial officer, said: “Supported by our strong ability to generate cash flow, we are investing significantly to support growth opportunities while continuing to reward our shareholders. We maintain our target of a 35% adjusted dividend payout ratio and we continue to return surplus cash through share repurchases.”

The decisions regarding the timing and size of future purchases of common shares under the Bid are subject to management’s discretion and are based on a variety of factors, including market conditions. The new Bid was approved by the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) today.

TSX rules permit CN to purchase daily, through TSX facilities, a maximum of 288,266 common shares under the Bid. Purchases under the Bid will be made by means of open market transactions.

The price paid by CN for its open market purchases of common shares will be the market price at the time of acquisition, plus brokerage fees.

CN believes that the repurchase of its shares represents an appropriate and beneficial use of the Company's funds.

CN's current normal course issuer bid announced in October 2018 for the purchase of up to 5.5 million common shares expires on Jan. 31, 2019. As at the close of trading on Jan. 28, 2019, CN has repurchased 3,911,447 common shares at a weighted-average price of C\$108.73 per share, excluding brokerage fees, returning C\$425 million to its shareholders. Purchases were made on the open market. CN will continue purchasing shares under this normal course issuer bid until Jan. 31, 2019.

The sum of the 5.5 million common shares sought for purchase and approved by TSX in October 2018, and the 22 million common shares sought for purchase under the Bid to

commence on Feb. 1, 2019, falls within the maximum number of common shares that can be purchased pursuant to TSX rules on normal course issuer bids, that is 10% of the public float of the common shares or 5% of the issued and outstanding common shares, within any 12-month period.

CN's Board of Directors also approved a first-quarter 2019 dividend on the Company's common shares outstanding. A quarterly dividend of fifty-three and three-fourths cents (C\$0.5375) per common share will be paid on March 29, 2019, to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 8, 2019.

Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements included in this news release constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and under Canadian securities laws, including statements relating to potential purchases of common shares for cancellation under a normal course issuer bid. By their nature, forward-looking statements involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions, and are subject to the discretion of CN's Board of Directors in respect of the declaration of dividends. The Company cautions that its assumptions may not materialize and that current economic conditions render such assumptions, although reasonable at the time they were made, subject to greater uncertainty. Forward-looking statements may be identified by the use of terminology such as "believes," "expects," "anticipates," "assumes," "outlook," "plans," "targets," or other similar words.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results or performance of the Company to be materially different from the outlook or any future results or performance implied by such statements. Accordingly, readers are advised not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Important risk factors that could affect the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, the effects of general economic and business conditions; industry competition; inflation, currency and interest rate fluctuations; changes in fuel prices; legislative and/or regulatory developments; compliance with environmental laws and regulations; actions by regulators; increases in maintenance and operating costs; security threats; reliance on technology and related cybersecurity risk; trade restrictions or other changes to international trade arrangements; transportation of hazardous materials; various events which could disrupt operations, including natural events such as severe weather, droughts, fires, floods and earthquakes; climate change; labor negotiations and disruptions; environmental claims; uncertainties of investigations, proceedings or other types of claims and litigation; risks and liabilities arising from derailments; timing and completion of capital programs; and other risks detailed from time to time in reports filed by CN with securities regulators in Canada and the United States. Reference should be made to Management's Discussion and Analysis in CN's annual and interim reports, Annual Information Form and Form 40-F, filed with Canadian and U.S. securities regulators and available on CN's website, for a description of major risk factors.

Forward-looking statements reflect information as of the date on which they are made. CN assumes no obligation to update or revise forward-looking statements to reflect future events, changes in circumstances, or changes in beliefs, unless required by applicable securities laws. In the event CN does update any forward-looking statement, no inference should be made that CN will make additional updates with respect to that statement, related matters, or any other forward-looking statement.

CN is a true backbone of the economy whose team of approximately 26,000 railroaders transports more than C\$250 billion worth of goods annually for a wide range of business sectors, ranging from resource products to manufactured products to consumer goods, across a rail network of approximately 20,000 route-miles spanning Canada and mid-America. CN – Canadian National Railway Company, along with its operating railway subsidiaries – serves the cities and ports of Vancouver, Prince Rupert, B.C., Montreal, Halifax, New Orleans, and Mobile, Ala., and the metropolitan areas of Toronto, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Calgary, Chicago, Memphis, Detroit, Duluth, Minn./Superior, Wis., and Jackson, Miss., with connections to all points in North America. For more information about CN, visit the Company's website at www.cn.ca.

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