

## ***BMW NEWS RELEASE***

### ***Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes***

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### **CIRB Certifies Teamsters Canada Rail Conference as the Union Representing Maintenance of Way Employees on the Canadian Pacific Railway in Canada**

**Southfield, MI, June 9, 2004**—Yesterday, the Canada Industrial Relations Board certified the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC), Maintenance of Way Division as the representative of maintenance of way employees on the Canadian Pacific Railway in Canada. The certification culminates a long joint effort by the Teamsters and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes.

In 2003, the BMW selected the International Brotherhood of Teamsters for exclusive merger talks. Then, the United Steel Workers of America commenced a hostile raid when the expiration of collective bargaining agreements resulted in an "open period" under Canadian labor law. At the same time, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was in the process of a membership ratification of a merger between the BLE and Teamsters Canada.

It was clear that rank-and-file union members desired to be part of a rail union that would encompass multiple railroad crafts. Therefore, in order to afford the maintenance of way employees of Canada an opportunity to have a choice in their representative, BMW and the TCRC engaged in a joint card-signing effort to give the members a choice in their future.

Finally, after a long delay, the Teamsters have been certified by the CIRB.

The CIRB still has pending before it representation applications of the Teamsters and Steelworkers on the Canadian National Railway. BMW is optimistic that application will be resolved soon. Meanwhile, BMW in the United States is involved in ongoing merger negotiations with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

"Today, I congratulate the maintenance of way employees on the Canadian Pacific Railway. At long last, the Canada Industrial Relations Board has acknowledged their choice of the Teamsters as their collective bargaining representative. And now, it is time for the CIRB to resolve the representation issue on the Canadian National as well. I am optimistic that if all goes well, the maintenance of way employees of our two countries will soon be united under the banner of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters," stated Acting President Freddie Simpson.

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