

CN innovations include strategic alliances with Burlington Northern, Union Pacific, and Norfolk Southern that will improve its service to much of North America.

CP Rail has developed containers exclusively for domestic use. Individual containers can be off-loaded at rail destinations and loaded directly onto highway flatbeds for immediate delivery to final destinations. This service is a great advantage over piggy-backing, which requires that all units be off-loaded at a rail destination before any can be prepared for trans-shipment.

CN North America in partnership with APL Land Transport Services has introduced the first Canada-U.S.-Mexico container service. The new service connects CN's Toronto-Montreal-Maritime line with APL's service from Chicago to Mexico City via Laredo, Texas.

U.S. rail carriers have successfully penetrated several Canadian markets. For example, Burlington Northern has become a strong competitor for shipments of forest products from the province of British Columbia. Maersk and American President Lines have teamed up with U.S. railways to bring double-stack container trains from the U.S. port of Seattle to Toronto and Montreal.

Canadian railways have inaugurated double stack container service at Halifax and Vancouver which can save up to 25 per cent in costs compared to operating conventional container trains. Double-stacking is another advantage of the intermodal system and offers a highly competitive doubling of the amount of freight carried. CP and CN have both invested millions of dollars to modify tunnels and underpasses on existing rail networks across Canada.

ADVANTAGE CANADA

A partnership called Advantage Canada, among Canada Ports Corporation and CP Rail and CN North America, has been established to facilitate cargo transportation throughout Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. It seeks lower costs, reliable delivery times, and damage-free handling of goods.

Advantage Canada promotes the use of intermodal systems and the development of systems for the exchange of electronic data among carriers. Advantage Canada has also supported the establishment of Gateway Councils at most of the major ports in Canada to work on the continued improvement of intermodal transportation.