

# Canada Weekly

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## Special vehicle acts as control centre in rail disasters

Canadian National Railways has developed a special communications vehicle to be used at the site of major derailments.

In Canada, there have been major derailments at Mississauga, Ontario and MacGregor, Manitoba. Although there were no deaths or serious injuries in either case — indeed there are no records of death due to dangerous commodity derailments in Canada — considerable public concern has been expressed.

Following an inquiry into the MacGregor derailment, CN Rail proposed the formation of a task force with representation from the various organizations and authorities most likely to be involved in the case of a derailment. The task force, which met first a year ago, included representatives of CN, Canadian Pacific Railways, the Canadian Chemical Producers Association, the Petroleum Traffic Committee, the Propane Gas Association of Canada, railcar builders, the Canadian Association of Police Chiefs, the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Canadian

Railway Labour Association, and the American Association of Railroads.

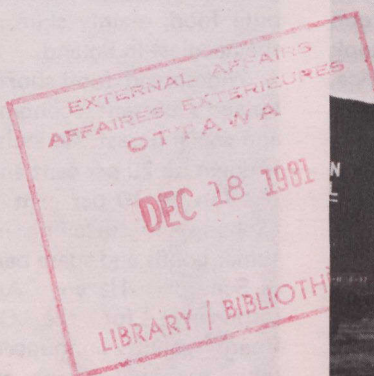
The idea for the special communications vehicle arose from task force discussions suggesting that a location where key players could plan strategy would be a distinct advantage.

### Serves as control centre

The command post, *Mobile 1*, was custom-built in CN Rail's Point St. Charles shops at a cost of more than \$250,000. It contains radio, telephone, telex and video systems and has been designed to be the command post at the site.

Half of the 45-foot trailer is taken up by a communications control centre. The other half is a conference area in which CN Rail officers, police and fire departments, chemical company specialists, environment officers and other authorities can share information and plan courses of action. The conference area will also be used for media briefings.

A key to ensuring communications is the 45-foot telescopic radio mast



This special communications trailer was custom-built by CN Rail at a cost of some \$250,000. Designed to be the Command Post at the site of a major derailment, Mobile 1 can travel by highway and rail flat-car.



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