

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY CO

Form 11-K

June 22, 2011

Securities and Exchange Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 11-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(D) OF  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended: December 31, 2010

Commission file number: 333-53422

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY  
MANAGEMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR U.S. OPERATIONS  
(Full title of the plan)

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY  
(Name of issuer of securities)

935 de La Gauchetiere St. West, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3B 2M9  
(Address of issuer's principal executive offices)

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY  
MANAGEMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR U.S. OPERATIONS

Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule  
As of December 31, 2010 and 2009  
(With Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm Thereon)

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY  
MANAGEMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR U.S. OPERATIONS

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Administrative Committee  
Canadian National Railway Company

Management Savings Plan for U.S. Operations:

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of Canadian National Railway Company Management Savings Plan for U.S. Operations (the Plan) as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Canadian National Railway Company Management Savings Plan for U.S. Operations as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedule H, line 4i – schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2010 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. This supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

(signed)

KPMG LLP

Denver, Colorado  
June 22, 2011



CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY  
 MANAGEMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR U.S. OPERATIONS  
 STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS  
 DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009

	2010	2009
Plan interest in Canadian National Railway Master Trust, at fair value (note 7)	\$128,428,680	\$118,524,986
Receivables:		
Participants' contributions	215,323	193,009
Employer's contributions	147,388	413,395
Notes receivable from participants	1,617,640	1,640,940
Total receivables	1,980,351	2,247,344
Net assets available for benefits at fair value	130,409,031	120,772,330
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for interest in Canadian National Railway Master Trust relating to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	(222,236)	296,723
Net assets available for benefits	\$130,186,795	\$121,069,053

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY  
MANAGEMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR U.S. OPERATIONS  
STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009

	2010	2009
Plan interest in investment income of the Canadian National Railway Master Trust (note 7)	\$14,319,170	\$21,959,656
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	90,629	113,015
Contributions:		
Participants'	5,775,575	5,811,210
Employer's	3,416,704	3,690,049
Rollover and other	203,119	26,261
Total contributions	9,395,398	9,527,520
Deductions from net assets:		
Participants' distributions	12,889,839	8,532,175
Transfer out of plan assets (note 5)	1,753,451	2,044,028
Administrative expenses	44,165	40,686
Total deductions	14,687,455	10,616,889
Net increase	9,117,742	20,983,302
Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year	121,069,053	100,085,751
Net assets available for benefits, end of year	\$130,186,795	\$121,069,053

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY  
MANAGEMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR U.S. OPERATIONS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009

1. THE COMPANY

Canadian National Railway Company (CN or the Company), directly and through its subsidiaries, is engaged in the rail and related transportation business. CN spans Canada and mid-America, from the Atlantic and Pacific oceans to the Gulf of Mexico, serving the ports of Vancouver, Prince Rupert, B.C., Montreal, Halifax, New Orleans and Mobile, Alabama, and the key metropolitan areas of Toronto, Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit, Duluth, Minnesota/Superior, Wisconsin, Green Bay, Wisconsin, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Memphis and Jackson, Mississippi, with connections to all points in North America. CN's freight revenues are derived from the movement of a diversified and balanced portfolio of goods, including petroleum and chemicals, grain and fertilizers, coal, metals and minerals, forest products, intermodal and automotive.

2. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of the Canadian National Railway Company Management Savings Plan for U.S. Operations (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the summary plan description for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan, as amended through December 18, 2009, is a defined contribution plan, offering all eligible employees an opportunity to defer annually from 1% to 100% of their eligible earnings, subject to the legal limits allowed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), for contribution to various investment funds. These funds and their investment objectives are described in Note 4. Eligible employees may participate in the Plan any time on or after their date of hire.

The Plan covers eligible employees of Illinois Central Railroad Company, Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated, IC RailMarine Terminal Company, Chicago, Central and Pacific Railroad Company, Duluth, Winnipeg and Pacific Railway Company, Wisconsin Central Limited, Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company, Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad Company, Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range Railway Company, the Pittsburgh and Conneaut Dock Company and the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway. Grand Trunk Corporation, which owns directly or indirectly all of the above U.S. affiliates of CN, is the Plan's sponsor. Grand Trunk Corporation is a holding company owned by CN. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended.

The Plan has an "automatic enrollment feature" permitting employers to automatically enroll new hires in the Plan. Eligible new employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan and treated as having elected to defer 3% of their eligible earnings, unless they make an affirmative election to decline participation in the Plan or to change their deferral percentage. An employee failing to respond within the prescribed notification period would become an active plan participant.

Administration of the Plan

Grand Trunk Corporation Board of Directors has delegated to the Administrative Committee, responsibility for the general operation and administration of the Plan and for carrying out and interpreting the Plan's provisions.





CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY  
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#### Trustee and Record-keeper

The Administrative Committee has appointed Fidelity Management Trust Company (FMTC) as trustee and Fidelity Investments Institutional Operations Company, Inc. as transfer agent and record-keeper of the Plan. Other affiliated Fidelity companies provide certain ministerial recordkeeping and administrative services to the Plan pursuant to an agreement entered into with the Plan Sponsor.

#### Contributions

Eligible participants may elect to make contributions to the Plan in amounts ranging from 1% to 100% of their annual eligible earnings on a before-tax basis. Such contributions are withheld by the Company from each participant's compensation and deposited in the appropriate fund in accordance with the participant's directives.

Consistent with provisions established by the IRS, the Plan's limit on pre-tax contributions by a participant was \$16,500 for 2010 and 2009. Participants who are at least age 50 by the end of a particular plan year and have contributed the maximum 401(k) deferral amount allowed under the Plan for that year are eligible to contribute an additional portion of their annual eligible earnings on a before-tax basis as "catch-up" contributions, up to the annual IRS limit of \$5,500 for 2010 and 2009 such that the total pre-tax contribution limit was \$22,000 for 2010 and 2009.

In 2010 and 2009, for all eligible employees, the Company contributed to the account balance of the Plan participants a "matching contribution" equal to 50% of the first 6% of annual eligible earnings the participant defers (a maximum Company match of 3% of eligible earnings). The Company may change the 50% matching rate or the 6% rate to any other percentages, including 0%. The Company does not match the participants' "catch-up" contributions.

Participants may elect to rollover amounts from other qualified plans or individual retirement account into the Plan provided that certain conditions are met.

#### CN Retirement Contribution

Effective January 1, 2006, certain eligible employees participate in the Plan under a new employer-contribution feature referred to as the "CN Retirement Contribution" (the DC Plan Feature). This feature is offered to all new hires.

The Company makes contributions, on behalf of all new hires subsequent to December 31, 2005 and participants who previously participated in certain defined-benefit plans of the Company and are now participants in this Plan, equal to 3.5% of the participants' annual eligible earnings for each year of service beginning January 1, 2006 whether or not the employees make pre-tax contributions to the Plan.

#### Participant Accounts

Participants direct the investment of their account balance into a broad range of investment funds offered by the Plan. The Plan's record-keeper maintains an account balance in the name of each participant to which each participant's pre-tax contributions, the Company's contributions, and share of net earnings, losses and expenses, if any, of the various investment funds, are recorded. Interest, dividends, and realized and unrealized gains and losses on investment of the funds are allocated directly to each participant's account. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

#### Vesting

All eligible employees are fully vested in their account balance at the time of contribution, including the Company's matching contribution and related earnings from such contributions, except for account balances under the DC Plan

Feature. Starting in 2007, these account balances vested after three years (prior to 2007, these account balances vested after five years) of employment or earlier if the participant reaches the normal retirement age, as defined.

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Forfeited unvested balances of terminated participants are used to reduce future Company contributions under the Plan (see Note 3).

#### Distributions

Participants are eligible for a distribution of the plan benefits upon termination of service, whether by disability, retirement, death, or leaving the Company. In the event of financial hardship, as defined in the Plan, participants may withdraw money from their accounts (excluding account balances under the DC Plan Feature) while they are still employed. Participants who have attained age 59½ may request a distribution of all or a portion of the value in the account. Withdrawals by the participant before attaining age 59½ generally are subject to a penalty tax of 10%.

#### Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants may borrow from their accounts by taking one loan (maximum of two loans if one or both were outstanding as of June 30, 2004) with a minimum amount of \$1,000, and a total maximum amount equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. Participants may not borrow from their account balance under the DC Plan Feature. Loans must be repaid within 5 years, or 10 years, if the funds are used to construct or purchase a primary residence. The interest rate on the loans is equal to the prevailing prime rate as of the beginning of the calendar quarter in which the participant applies for the loan plus 1%, which ranged from 4.0% to 9.25% for loans outstanding at December 31, 2010. Principal and interest are paid in equal installments through payroll deductions. Participants may prepay the entire outstanding loan balance at any time without penalty. Loans deemed to be in default are recorded as distributions.

At December 31, 2010, loans outstanding were \$1,617,640 (\$1,640,940 in 2009), net of deemed defaulted loans of \$62,879 (\$60,527 in 2009).

#### Termination of Service

Upon termination of service, a participant with a vested account balance may leave their account balance in the Plan, or may elect to receive the value of their account in a lump-sum payment or as a direct transfer to another qualified retirement plan subject to certain conditions. However, a participant with a vested account balance of \$5,000 or less may select from the latter two options only.

#### Expenses

Administrative expenses for maintenance of plan financial records, participant statements, and trustee fees are paid from plan assets. The Investment Committee, appointed by the Administrative Committee, employs an independent investment consultant to evaluate investment options, conduct fund searches, and monitor fund manager activity, of which the fees incurred are paid from plan assets. All other administrative expenses of the Plan are paid by the Company. In addition, certain investment related expenses reduced investment income presented in the accompanying statement of changes in net assets available for benefits.

#### Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan provides for various investment options in any combination of stocks, mutual funds, and other investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market, and credit. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in risks in the near term could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits and the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits.

Certain of the funds available for investment by participants may contain securities with contractual cash flows, such as asset-backed securities, collateralized mortgage obligations, and commercial mortgage-backed securities, including securities backed by subprime mortgage loans. The value, liquidity, and related income of those securities are sensitive to changes in economic conditions, including real estate value, delinquencies or defaults, or both, and may be adversely affected by shifts in the market's perception of the issuers and changes in interest rates.

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3. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared under the accrual method of accounting.

As described in Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 962-325-35-5 "Investments - Other," investment contracts held by a defined contribution plan are required to be reported at fair value. However, contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits of a defined-contribution plan attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the plan. As required by FASB ASC 962-325-35-5, the statement of net assets available for benefits presents the fair value of the investment contracts as well as the adjustment of the fully benefit-responsive investment contracts from fair value to contract value. The statement of changes in net assets available for benefits is prepared on a contract value basis.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires the Plan Administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation

The Plan's investments are stated at fair value. The fair value of the Plan's interest in the Canadian National Railway Master Trust (Master Trust) is based on the specific interest that each plan has in the underlying participant directed investment options. The investments held by the Master Trust are valued as follows: Investments in mutual funds and money market funds are valued at the net asset values of shares held at year-end. Common stocks are valued at the last reported sales price or closing price by the national securities exchange on which it trades. The CN Stock Fund is tracked on a unitized basis, whereby the value of a unit reflects the combined market value of CN common stock and the cash investments held by the fund. The Master Trust's interest in the Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio II, which is fully benefit-responsive, is presented at the fair value of units held by the Master Trust as of December 31, with separate disclosure of the adjustment from fair value to contract value, which is equal to principal balance plus accrued interest. The fair value of the Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio II is calculated by the issuer utilizing quoted market prices, most recent bid prices in the principal market in which securities are normally traded, pricing services and dealer quotes. The fair value of underlying wrapper contracts is calculated by the issuer using a discounted cash flow model which considers (i) recent fee bids as determined by recognized dealers, (ii) discount rate and (iii) the duration of the underlying portfolio securities.

The statement of net assets available for benefits includes the fair value of the underlying assets and wrap contracts of the Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio II based on the proportionate ownership of the Plan.

As of December 31, 2010, there were no reserves against the wrap contracts' carrying values due to credit risks of the issuers. Effective August 2009, interest rates are reviewed on a monthly basis for resetting instead of being reviewed on a quarterly basis. Certain events could limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the issuers of the contracts held by the Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio II. Such events could include, but are not limited to, the following: the establishment of a defined contribution plan that competes with the Plan for contributions, substantive

modification to the Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio II or the administration of the Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio II, change in law, regulation or administrative ruling applicable to the Plan that could have a material adverse effect on cash flow, transfer to a competing investment option, and failure of the Plan to qualify under the applicable sections of the IRC. Withdrawals initiated by the Plan will normally be provided at

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contract value as soon as practicable within twelve months following written notice. The Plan does not believe that the occurrence of any of these events, which could limit the Plan's ability to transact at contract value with participants, is probable.

The average yields earned by the Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio II were approximately 2.25% and 2.74% at December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively. The average yields earned by the Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio II based on the actual interest rates credited to participants were approximately 1.82% and 1.53% at December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

The methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net asset value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Plan's valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different estimate of fair value at the reporting date.

#### Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus accrued but unpaid interest. Delinquent participant loans are reclassified as a distribution based upon the terms of the plan document.

#### Security Transactions and Related Investment Income

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date, and interest income is recorded on the accrual basis.

Net investment income includes the realized gains and losses on the sale of securities and the unrealized appreciation and depreciation in the fair value of investments.

#### Distributions

Distributions to participants or beneficiaries are recorded upon payment.

#### Contributions Receivable

Contributions receivable are the amounts due, as of the date of the financial statements, to the Plan from the Company and participants. Participant contributions from employee payroll deductions made subsequent to the Plan's year-end attributable to the preceding plan year are accrued, as are Company contributions coinciding with these salary deferrals and the DC Plan Feature, if any.

#### Forfeited Accounts

Participants' forfeited unvested accounts, under the DC Plan Feature, are used to reduce Company contributions. At December 31, 2010 and 2009, forfeited unvested accounts available to reduce future Company contributions were \$523 and \$129,007, respectively. In 2010, the Company applied forfeitures of \$128,484 against Company contributions. In 2009, the Company did not apply any forfeiture against Company contributions.

#### New Accounting Pronouncements

In September 2010, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2010 - 25, Plan Accounting – Defined Contribution Pension Plans (Topic 962), Reporting Loans to Participants by Defined Contribution Pension Plans, a consensus of the FASB Emerging Issues Task Force (Update). This Update requires that participant loans be classified as notes receivable from participants, which are segregated from plan investments and measured at their unpaid



principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. The amendments in the Update are to be applied retrospectively to all prior periods presented, effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2010. The Plan has adopted the amendments of the Update for the 2010 plan year and has reclassified participant loans from investments to notes receivable from participants for financial statement presentation. The Form 5500 and supplemental schedule

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