CN worker dies in accident near Melville

A Canadian National rail worker has died after a workplace accident near Melville on Friday, the Teamsters reported.

The union, which represents workers at CN, said the worker was a 26-year-old woman with approximately three years on the job.

“Instead of celebrating the holidays, the family of one our Teamster sisters will be in mourning,” François Laporte, President of Teamsters Canada, was quoted as saying in a press release. “I would like to express my sincerest condolences to her family, friends and co-workers.”

A Transportation Safety Board investigation is ongoing, according to the union, which said it will cooperate fully. It did not release the name of the deceased worker.

“As while the loss of a fellow worker is always tragic, it seems even more so at this time of year when families and friends are foremost in our thoughts,” said Doug Finnson, President of Teamsters Canada Rail Conference.

“As we gather with our families and celebrate Christmas, let us all think of our sisters and brothers, and let us keep a place in our hearts for our deceased co-worker and her family.”

Dear CN Colleagues,

It is with great sadness that we inform you that our colleague Melissa Heins was fatally injured while working Melville, Saskatchewan. Melissa was a Conductor and had been with CN since September 2014. She was from Petersfield, Manitoba, and was 26.
Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends and colleagues. We know you join us in offering them our deepest condolences.

The incident is being investigated. This is a particularly tragic time of year for such a terrible event to occur. This reminds us all of the importance of constant vigilance in what is an unforgiving industry. We come to work each day wanting above all to ensure we all go home safely to our families at the end of our shifts.

Let's all honour Melissa's memory by dedicating ourselves to a full and personal commitment to safety and to look out for each other at all times. Team, our collective support is necessary and needed.

Luc Jobin
President and CEO

Mike Cory,
Executive Vice-President and COO

Occurrence No.: R17W0267 Occurrence Type: ACCIDENT
Occurrence Date: 2017-12-22 Accident/Incident Type: EMPLOYEE
Occurrence Time: 18:00 Subdivision Owner: CN - CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY CO.
Classification: 5 Subdivision Name: WATROUS
Province: SASKATCHEWAN Subdivision Mileage: 0.00
Nearest Town/City: MELVILLE Yard Name: MELVILLE
DG Cars Involved: 0 Spur Name:
DG Released: 0 Spur Mileage:
Train Operator: CN - CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY CO.
INJURIES Fatal: 1 Serious: 0 Minor: 0
Occurrence Summary:
CN Melville yard belt pack assignment kicked 3 cars into a track. Cars stopped and began to roll back uncontrolled. Belt pack operator entrained and was trying to apply the handbrake when the 3 cars collided with the stationary consist and the drawbars crossed. Employee was caught between the 2 movements and was transported to hospital. Confirmed fatal.