

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY CO

Form 6-K

October 21, 2003

FORM 6-K
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Issuer

**Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For the month of October 2003

Commission File Number: 001-02413

Canadian National Railway Company

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

**935 de la Gauchetiere Street West
Montreal, Quebec
Canada H3B 2M9**

(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F:

Form 20-F ☐

Form 40-F ☒

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Yes ☐

No ☒

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Yes ☐

No ☒

Indicate by check mark whether by furnishing the information contained in this Form, the Registrant is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

Yes ☐

No ☒

If ☒ Yes is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): N/A

Items

1. Press Release announcing CN's third-quarter 2003 net income.
-

**CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY
PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stock symbols: TSX: CNR / NYSE: CNI

www.cn.ca

CN's third-quarter 2003 net income rises 10 per cent to \$294 million; diluted earnings per share increase 16 per cent to \$1.53

MONTREAL, Oct. 21, 2003 CN today reported its financial results for the third quarter and nine-month period ended Sept. 30, 2003.

Quarterly highlights

- n Net income up 10 per cent to \$294 million despite stronger Canadian dollar reducing third-quarter net income by approximately \$14 million, or seven cents per diluted share;
- n Diluted earnings per share up 16 per cent to \$1.53;
- n Operating ratio flat at 67.9 per cent;
- n Improved results reflect increased intermodal revenue, recovery in Canadian grain shipments, solid cost control, and favourable tax adjustments of \$30 million, or 16 cents per diluted share.

Net income for third-quarter 2003 was \$294 million, or \$1.53 per diluted share, compared with net income of \$268 million, or \$1.32 per diluted share, for the comparable quarter of 2002.

E. Hunter Harrison, president and chief executive officer, said: CN turned in a good performance this quarter, powered in large measure by increased intermodal revenues, the recovery in Canadian grain shipments following last year's drought, a solid story on expense control, and favourable tax adjustments.

**CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY
PRESS RELEASE**

Our performance was all the more remarkable given the environment we faced. The significant year-over-year appreciation of the Canadian dollar relative to its U.S. counterpart during the quarter reduced revenues by \$100 million, although the stronger C\$ helped our expense performance by \$70 million.

CN also contended with the unprecedented electrical power blackout in Ontario and the Midwest in August, and major summer forest fires in British Columbia. Despite the significant reduction in revenues and operational challenges, we managed our costs aggressively to deliver an operating ratio below 68 per cent, essentially flat with last year.

In the months ahead the Canadian dollar will remain a challenge, but we anticipate continued strength in Canadian grain shipments and a gradual improvement in North American economic output. With a close eye on costs and continued good service levels, we are well positioned to benefit from an economic rebound.

CN converts its U.S.-dollar denominated revenues and expenses into Canadian dollars. The 13 per cent year-over-year appreciation of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar during the most recent period reduced CN's third-quarter 2003 revenues, operating income, and net income by approximately \$100 million, \$30 million, and \$14 million (seven cents per diluted share), respectively.

Operating income for the third quarter of 2003 declined six per cent to \$454 million. Revenues of \$1,413 million were six per cent lower than the year-earlier period, reflecting the significant strengthening of the Canadian dollar, continued weakness in coal shipments and a slowdown in the automotive sector. Operating expenses declined six per cent to \$959 million, due to the translation impact of the stronger Canadian dollar on U.S. dollar-denominated expenses, and lower expenses for purchased services and material, and equipment rents. Partly offsetting the decrease were higher casualty and other expenses.

The company's operating ratio for the latest quarter was 67.9 per cent, essentially flat compared with 67.8 per cent for the comparable quarter of 2002. Carloadings declined one per cent to 1,034 thousand.

Nine-month 2003 results

Net income for the first nine months of 2003 was \$790 million, or \$4.06 per diluted share, compared with net income of \$778 million, or \$3.86 per diluted share, for the same period of 2002.

**CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY
PRESS RELEASE**

Nine-month 2003 net income included a cumulative after-tax benefit of \$48 million (24 cents per diluted share), resulting from a change in the accounting for removal costs for certain track structure assets. Excluding the effect of this change, net income for the period was \$742 million, or \$3.82 per diluted share.

Operating income for the first nine months of 2003 declined eight per cent to \$1,265 million. Revenues declined four per cent to \$4,372 million, while operating expenses fell two per cent to \$3,107 million. CN's operating ratio for the most recent nine-month period was 71.1 per cent, compared with 69.8 per cent for the year-earlier period. Carloadings increased one per cent to 3,124 thousand.

Edgar Filing: CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY CO - Form 6-K

The 10 per cent year-over-year appreciation of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar during the first nine months of this year affected the conversion of CN's U.S. dollar-denominated revenues and expenses into Canadian dollars. The stronger Canadian dollar reduced nine-month 2003 revenues, operating income, and net income by approximately \$235 million, \$75 million, and \$37 million (19 cents per diluted share), respectively.

The financial results in this press release are reported in Canadian dollars and were determined on the basis of U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (U.S. GAAP).

This news release contains forward-looking statements. CN cautions that, by their nature, forward-looking statements involve risk and uncertainties and that its results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in such statements. Reference should be made to CN's most recent Form 40-F filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Annual Information Form filed with the Canadian securities regulators, for a summary of major risks.

Canadian National Railway Company 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, Ala., and the key cities of Toronto, Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit, Duluth, Minn./Superior, Wis., Green Bay, Wis., Minneapolis/St. Paul, Memphis, St. Louis, and Jackson, Miss., with connections to all points in North America.

-30-

Contacts:

Media

Mark Hallman

System Director, Media Relations
(905) 669-3384

Investors

Robert Noorigian

Vice-President, Investor Relations
(514) 399-0052

3

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME (U.S. GAAP)

(In millions, except per share data)

| | Three months ended September 30 | | Nine months ended September 30 | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 |
| | <i>(Unaudited)</i> | | | |
| Revenues | \$ 1,413 | \$ 1,503 | \$ 4,372 | \$ 4,563 |
| Operating expenses | 959 | 1,019 | 3,107 | 3,183 |
| Operating income | 454 | 484 | 1,265 | 1,380 |
| Interest expense | (76) | (89) | (244) | (276) |

Edgar Filing: CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY CO - Form 6-K

| | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Other income | 13 | 8 | 13 | 69 |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Income before income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting policy | 391 | 403 | 1,034 | 1,173 |
| Income tax expense | (97) | (135) | (292) | (395) |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Income before cumulative effect of change in accounting policy | 294 | 268 | 742 | 778 |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting policy (net of applicable taxes) | - | - | 48 | - |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Net income | \$ 294 | \$ 268 | \$ 790 | \$ 778 |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Earnings per share | | | | |
| Basic earnings per share | | | | |
| Income before cumulative effect of change in accounting policy | \$ 1.55 | \$ 1.34 | \$ 3.87 | \$ 3.98 |
| Net income | \$ 1.55 | \$ 1.34 | \$ 4.12 | \$ 3.98 |
| Diluted earnings per share | | | | |
| Income before cumulative effect of change in accounting policy | \$ 1.53 | \$ 1.32 | \$ 3.82 | \$ 3.86 |
| Net income | \$ 1.53 | \$ 1.32 | \$ 4.06 | \$ 3.86 |
| Weighted-average number of shares | | | | |
| Basic | 189.3 | 200.3 | 191.8 | 195.7 |
| Diluted | 192.1 | 203.0 | 194.5 | 203.1 |

4

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING INCOME (U.S. GAAP)

(In millions)

| Three months ended September 30 | | | Nine months ended September 30 | | |
|---------------------------------|------|----------------------|--------------------------------|------|----------------------|
| | | Variance Fav (Unfav) | | | Variance Fav (Unfav) |
| 2003 | 2002 | | 2003 | 2002 | |

*(Unaudited)***Revenues**

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Petroleum and chemicals | \$ 255 | \$ 275 | (7%) | \$ 798 | \$ 819 | (3%) |
| Metals and minerals | 130 | 138 | (6%) | 387 | 398 | (3%) |
| Forest products | 322 | 337 | (4%) | 966 | 996 | (3%) |
| Coal | 57 | 85 | (33%) | 201 | 243 | (17%) |
| Grain and fertilizers | 220 | 217 | 1% | 655 | 741 | (12%) |
| Intermodal | 280 | 273 | 3% | 834 | 769 | 8% |
| Automotive | 103 | 130 | (21%) | 389 | 440 | (12%) |
| Other items | 46 | 48 | (4%) | 142 | 157 | (10%) |
| | 1,413 | 1,503 | (6%) | 4,372 | 4,563 | (4%) |
| Operating expenses | | | | | | |
| Labor and fringe benefits | 414 | 407 | (2%) | 1,283 | 1,290 | 1% |
| Purchased services and material | 151 | 196 | 23% | 529 | 594 | 11% |
| Depreciation and amortization | 136 | 149 | 9% | 418 | 434 | 4% |
| Fuel | 100 | 109 | 8% | 352 | 335 | (5%) |
| Equipment rents | 69 | 85 | 19% | 228 | 264 | 14% |
| Casualty and other | 89 | 73 | (22%) | 297 | 266 | (12%) |
| | 959 | 1,019 | 6% | 3,107 | 3,183 | 2% |
| Operating income | \$ 454 | \$ 484 | (6%) | \$ 1,265 | \$ 1,380 | (8%) |
| Operating ratio | 67.9% | 67.8% | (0.1) | 71.1% | 69.8% | (1.3) |

Certain of the 2002 comparative figures have been reclassified in order to be consistent with the 2003 presentation.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (U.S. GAAP)
(In millions)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| September 30 | December 31 | September 30 |
| 2003 | 2002 | 2002 |

*(Unaudited)**(Unaudited)*

Assets**Current assets:**

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ | 122 | \$ | 25 | \$ | 24 |
| Accounts receivable | | 567 | | 722 | | 715 |
| Material and supplies | | 145 | | 127 | | 150 |
| Deferred income taxes | | 123 | | 122 | | 120 |
| Other | | 174 | | 196 | | 179 |
| | | 1,131 | | 1,192 | | 1,188 |
| Properties | | 18,478 | | 19,681 | | 19,348 |
| Other assets and deferred charges | | 844 | | 865 | | 903 |
| Total assets | \$ | 20,453 | \$ | 21,738 | \$ | 21,439 |

Liabilities and shareholders' equity**Current liabilities:**

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| Accounts payable and accrued charges | \$ | 1,394 | \$ | 1,487 | \$ | 1,377 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | | 537 | | 574 | | 699 |
| Other | | 62 | | 73 | | 71 |
| | | 1,993 | | 2,134 | | 2,147 |
| Deferred income taxes | | 4,489 | | 4,826 | | 4,798 |
| Other liabilities and deferred credits | | 1,252 | | 1,406 | | 1,205 |
| Long-term debt | | 4,473 | | 5,003 | | 4,699 |
| Shareholders' equity: | | | | | | |
| Common shares | | 4,642 | | 4,785 | | 4,848 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) | | (116) | | 97 | | 102 |
| Retained earnings | | 3,720 | | 3,487 | | 3,640 |
| | | 8,246 | | 8,369 | | 8,590 |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$ | 20,453 | \$ | 21,738 | \$ | 21,439 |

(In millions)

| | Three months ended September 30 | | Nine months ended September 30 | |
|---|------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 |
| <i>(Unaudited)</i> | | | | |
| Common shares ⁽¹⁾ | | | | |
| Balance, beginning of period | \$ 4,631 | \$ 4,499 | \$ 4,785 | \$ 4,442 |
| Stock options exercised and other | 40 | 10 | 100 | 66 |
| Share repurchase program | (29) | - | (243) | - |
| Conversion of convertible preferred securities | - | 339 | - | 340 |
| Balance, end of period | \$ 4,642 | \$ 4,848 | \$ 4,642 | \$ 4,848 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) | | | | |
| Balance, beginning of period | \$ (119) | \$ 31 | \$ 97 | \$ 58 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | | | |
| Unrealized foreign exchange gain (loss) on translation of U.S. dollar denominated long-term debt designated as a hedge of the net investment in U.S. subsidiaries | (17) | (158) | 589 | 50 |
| Unrealized foreign exchange gain (loss) on translation of the net investment in foreign operations | 27 | 251 | (898) | (52) |
| Unrealized holding gain (loss) on fuel derivative instruments | (5) | 14 | (6) | 69 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) before income taxes | 5 | 107 | (315) | 67 |
| Income tax (expense) recovery | (2) | (36) | 102 | (23) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) | 3 | 71 | (213) | 44 |
| Balance, end of period | \$ (116) | \$ 102 | \$ (116) | \$ 102 |
| Retained earnings | | | | |
| Balance, beginning of period | \$ 3,532 | \$ 3,415 | \$ 3,487 | \$ 2,988 |
| Net income | 294 | 268 | 790 | 778 |
| Share repurchase program | (58) | - | (413) | - |
| Dividends | (48) | (43) | (144) | (126) |
| Balance, end of period | \$ 3,720 | \$ 3,640 | \$ 3,720 | \$ 3,640 |

⁽¹⁾ The Company issued 0.6 million and 1.6 million common shares for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2003, respectively, as a result of stock options exercised. At September 30, 2003, the Company had 189.1 million common shares outstanding.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (U.S. GAAP)

(In millions)

| | Three months ended September 30 | | Nine months ended September 30 | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 |
| <i>(Unaudited)</i> | | | | |
| Operating activities | | | | |
| Net income | \$ 294 | \$ 268 | \$ 790 | \$ 778 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided from operating activities: | | | | |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting policy | - | - | (48) | - |
| Depreciation and amortization | 137 | 151 | 422 | 439 |
| Deferred income taxes | 65 | 81 | 222 | 237 |
| Equity in earnings of English Welsh and Scottish Railway | (2) | (4) | (20) | (19) |
| Other changes in: | | | | |
| Accounts receivable | 39 | (2) | 119 | (43) |
| Material and supplies | 7 | 16 | (27) | (17) |
| Accounts payable and accrued charges | (30) | (24) | (105) | (98) |
| Other net current assets and liabilities | 3 | 8 | (2) | (4) |
| Other | 13 | (63) | 37 | (85) |
| Cash provided from operating activities | 526 | 431 | 1,388 | 1,188 |
| Investing activities | | | | |
| Net additions to properties | (309) | (271) | (696) | (633) |
| Other, net | 2 | (29) | (5) | 15 |
| Cash used by investing activities | (307) | (300) | (701) | (618) |
| Dividends paid | (48) | (43) | (144) | (126) |
| Financing activities | | | | |
| Issuance of long-term debt | 705 | 642 | 2,729 | 2,532 |
| Reduction of long-term debt | (825) | (807) | (2,588) | (3,067) |
| Issuance of common shares | 28 | 8 | 69 | 62 |
| Repurchase of common shares | (87) | - | (656) | - |
| Cash used by financing activities | (179) | (157) | (446) | (473) |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | (8) | (69) | 97 | (29) |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period | 130 | 93 | 25 | 53 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | \$ | 122 | \$ | 24 | \$ | 122 | \$ | 24 |
|---|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|

Supplemental cash flow information

Payments:

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Interest | \$ | 80 | \$ | 83 | \$ | 243 | \$ | 293 |
| Workforce reductions | | 32 | | 36 | | 121 | | 130 |
| Personal injury and other claims | | 36 | | 37 | | 91 | | 105 |
| Pensions | | 21 | | 25 | | 43 | | 52 |
| Income taxes | | 16 | | 21 | | 70 | | 88 |

8

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Canadian National Railway Company

Date: October 21, 2003

By: /s/ Sean Finn

Name: Sean Finn
Title: Senior Vice President Public
Affairs, Chief Legal Officer and
Corporate Secretary