



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Manitoba Trucking Association

25 Bunting Street,
Winnipeg, MB R2X 2P5
Ph: (204) 632-6600
Fax: (204) 694-7134

Contact:

Susan Green
Program & Member Services
Coordinator

(204) 632-6600

or

sgreen@trucking.mb.ca

Serving the needs of the Trucking Industry and its interested parties by the promotion of a Healthy Business Environment and the Advocacy of Safety, Education, and Responsibility.

Four Manitoba drivers awarded MTA - Custom Truck Sales Inc. Industry Excellence Award

Winnipeg, October 1, 2009 - Four Manitoba drivers were the inaugural recipients of the *MTA-Custom Truck Sales Inc. Industry Excellence Award*. The winners were Bruce Wright (Northern Deck), Robert St. Vincent (Bison Transport), Doug Ducharme (Arnold Bros. Transport) and Fred Barnett (Len Dubois Trucking Inc).

The purpose of this award is to recognize industry excellence among drivers. Members of the committee look at four main areas when choosing recipients for this award: commitment to industry, commitment to safety, commitment to customer service, and acts that go above and beyond what is normally expected of drivers in day-to-day operations. The four winners very clearly exemplify these characteristics (please see attached driver bio for more information on each of the winners). Each of these four drivers will be nominated for the *MTA-Volvo Trucks Canada Manitoba Driver of the Year Award*, which is awarded annually at the driver awards banquet.

The Manitoba Trucking Association and Custom Truck Sales are honoured to recognize the contributions made to the industry by these four drivers. As Jim Clark, of Custom Truck Sales Inc, stated, "these drivers are the cream of the crop; they exemplify excellence". Bob Dolyniuk of the Manitoba Trucking Association also believes strongly that the contributions made by drivers to our industry cannot be understated, saying that "Manitoba has many, many top-notch drivers, and we are so pleased to be able to recognize the top-tier drivers in our industry."

Nominations are being accepted for the remainder of the 2009 year. Nomination forms can be found on the MTA's website www.trucking.mb.ca

MTA - Custom Truck Sales Inc. Industry Excellence Award Winners:

Bruce Wright, Northern Deck (a division of Gardewine North)

Described as “one of those guys who goes about his thing every day, not looking for recognition”, Bruce’s commitment to the trucking industry is exceptional. He began his trucking industry career in 1981 as a general shop labourer with George Smith Trucking Company. Since then, he moved into a role as a shop mechanic before becoming a long-haul driver in 1987. He has spent the past 14 years as a driver with Northern Deck, and his employer cannot say enough good things about him. Using terms such as “consummate professional”, “takes great pride in his job” and “above and beyond even our highest level”, Bruce is, without a doubt, a committed trucking industry leader.

Fred Barnett, Len Dubois Trucking Inc

Customer service is one of the many areas in which Fred received praise from his employer. With six years as an owner-operator at Len Dubois Trucking, Fred has received numerous compliments from customers regarding his professional manner, excellent work on multi-drop and job-site deliveries, and on-time service. Fred has been in the trucking industry for almost 13 years, but worked at QX 104 for ten years before entering the industry. Fred has made an impression over at Len Dubois, and is sure to continue to be an industry leader.

Doug Ducharme, Arnold Bros Transport

With 36-plus years of driving experience and a clear driver’s abstract, safety is important to Doug Ducharme. He has won a number of safety awards, including safety bonuses, safe driver awards, safe miles awards, and accident-free awards. His safety record can be described as “excellent”, a term also used to describe his attitude towards the care of equipment. Doug also has experience at Christie Transport and at Yanke, where he began his career. He is a safety-minded individual who handles products with great care.

Robert St. Vincent, Bison Transport

While long-haul truck drivers face perils and hazards on the road every day, not many are credited with saving the life of another driver:

...there is one person I own my life to, one person that made his presence a world of difference. Without his being able to maneuver his big rig, I wouldn't be here. Thank you with all my heart, Mr. Transport Driver, you saved my life. I would love to meet you in person and hug you. None of this was your fault, you did a great job at steering your rig as best you could under the circumstances. Thank you so much! You are my angel. Although I don't know your name, you will always have a place in my heart.

Of course, “Mr. Transport Driver” in this story refers to Robert St. Vincent, a long-time driver with Bison Transport. Robert has 27 years of driving experience, starting with B&H Salvage, before moving to Atomic Transport, and then Bison Transport. An open-board driver, Robert has experience hauling flat decks, dry vans, reefers and long-combination vehicles. All of this experience no doubt helped Robert to make the correct, safe decision while driving in icy conditions in Northwestern Ontario last winter. It was a decision that ultimately saved the lives of two other people who were also on the road at that time.