

## Grain-elevator firms take aim at railway CEO

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Canadian National Railway says it is making progress to meet the government's target of increased grain shipments, but the railway drew a rebuke from western Canadian grain-elevator companies after calling on them to "step up" their own performances.

"The fact that CN is making this comment is just an attempt to deflect attention from the real issue," said Wade Sobkowich, executive director of the Western Grain Elevator Association.

He said the main challenge is getting enough capacity and receiving cars throughout the week and "appropriately apportioned" to Canada's four grain delivery corridors - Western Canada, Thunder Bay, the United States and Eastern Canada.

"It doesn't make sense that they're asking us to do a better job when we're already performing," he said. CN said it is troubled by the association's concern that too many grain loads are being sent to the West Coast and the Great Lakes terminal in Ontario.

"Having wrongly singled out railways and unrealistically called for a near doubling of railcar capacity since last fall, it is now time for grain elevator companies to step up to the capacity they claim to have, and do so in the corridors that will benefit Canadian farmers the most," CEO Claude Mongeau said Monday.

CN said it provided 5,102 hopper cars for loading last week, the most in its history at this point of the season.