



Canada's Best Managed Company Veterans Awarded Ultimate National Award of Excellence

**17 Canadian Companies Honoured with Platinum Club Award-
The Most Prestigious and Toughest Achievement for any Canadian Company**

December 3, 2003 – Today, Canada's crème de le crème of Best Managed Companies are awarded Platinum status, as Canada's 50 Best Managed Company Awards program launches the prestigious 'Platinum Club'. The award is in recognition of those outstanding companies who have sustained a standard of excellence and leadership in all areas of their business practices, and have qualified in the award program for at least six consecutive years - during some of the toughest and most competitive market conditions.

In total, 17 elite companies throughout Canada have been awarded *Platinum Club* membership- in recognition of their continued outstanding accomplishments, as the 50 Best program moves into its 11th year.

"The *Platinum Club* was launched in recognition of this outstanding group of Canadian owned and managed companies who have consistently been recognized as one of our 50 Best Managed Company qualifiers," said Tony Grnak, Deloitte Partner and National Leader, Canada's 50 Best. "Time and time again these companies have proven their remarkable ability and commitment to continue to apply best practices in all aspects of their business. This is certainly no easy feat in such a competitive market and under such a rigorous evaluation process. *Platinum Club* status is the ultimate, prestigious award for any Canadian company."

The 17 Canadian Companies Honoured with the Platinum Club Award (ranked alphabetically) includes:

COMPANY NAME	SECTOR	CITY	PRO
Bison Transport Inc.	Transportation	Winnipeg	MB
Boston Pizza International Inc.	Franchised full service dining restaurants	Richmond	BC
BROCK Solutions Inc.	Engineering & professional services	Kitchener	ON
Canad Inns	Hospitality	Winnipeg	MB
Canadian Securities Registration Systems	Service	Burnaby	BC
Deeley Harley-Davidson Canada	Wholesale distribution & retail	Richmond	BC
Fountain Tire	Retail, wholesale, retreading, mining services- tire & automotive service	Edmonton	AB
Komex	Oil & Gas, pipeline, mining, government, infrastructure & industry facilities- water resources	Calgary	AB
Maska inc.	Power Transmission Component Manufacturer - cast iron & steel products	Sainte-Claire	QC
Modern Niagara Group Inc.	Construction- mechanical contracting	Ottawa	ON
Monarch Industries Limited	Manufacturer & distributor- industrial equipment	Winnipeg	MB
MSM Transportation Inc.	Transportation services	Bolton	ON
National Leasing	Commercial equipment leasing	Winnipeg	MB
PCL Construction Group Inc.	Construction	Edmonton	AB

Quik X Transportation Inc.	Freight transportation	Mississauga	ON
WGI Westman Group Inc.	Manufacturing- steel products	Winnipeg	MB
Wheels Group	Transportation, logistics & supply chain management	Mississauga	ON

Established in 1993, the annual program recognizes Canada's 50 Best Managed companies who have demonstrated exceptional ability and aptitude in all areas of management and best business practices. To be recognized as one of the 50 Best, companies must complete a comprehensive questionnaire, and an extensive, in-depth interview process which is evaluated by an independent judging panel to assess and examine its' management practices. The panel evaluates how companies address various business challenges such as new technologies, globalization, brand, leadership, leveraging and developing core competencies and designing the right organizations and systems to facilitate growth and the new generation of people entering the labour market.

To be eligible for the *Platinum Club*, companies must prove their ability to sustain a standard of excellence and leadership in all areas of business best practices and to have been active participants of the program for six consecutive years, between the program launch in 1993 and 2002. The honoured Platinum Club members will continue to be evaluated regularly to ensure they maintain a constant level of excellence.

"These companies have been recognised as the most innovative and best managed companies in Canada," said James McSherry, Executive Vice President and Managing Director, CIBC Commercial Banking. "We applaud and congratulate all 17 companies who have sustained such outstanding standards of management over six consecutive years. We welcome them as honorary Platinum Club members."

About Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies (www.canadas50best.com)

Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies (*50 Best*) is a national awards program that recognizes the 50 Best businesses from a wide range of industries that have implemented world-class best business practices. The program, established in 1993 and entering its 11th year, annually recognizes 50 well-managed Canadian companies that must complete an extensive and in-depth interview process to assess and examine its management practices.

This year, Canada's 50 Best Managed Company program established the *Platinum Club* in recognition of those companies who have qualified for the 50 Best program for the past six consecutive years between the launch of the program in 1993, and 2002.

Canada's 2003 50 Best Managed Companies winners will be announced in January 12, 2004. National sponsors of the program are Deloitte, CIBC Commercial Banking, National Post, and Queen's School of Business. Information about Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies 2003 is available online at www.canadas50best.com.