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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE

In re:

MONTREAL, MAINE & ATLANTIC RAILWAY, LTD.,

Debtor.

ROBERT J. KEACH, solely in his capacity as the chapter 11 trustee for MONTREAL, MAINE & ATLANTIC RAILWAY, LTD.,

Plaintiff,

v.

MAINE NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY,

Defendant.

Bk. No. 13-10670 Chapter 11

Adv. Proc. No. 15-____

COMPLAINT

Robert J. Keach, solely in his capacity as the chapter 11 trustee of Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. (the "<u>Trustee</u>"), brings this Complaint against Maine Northern Railway Company (the "<u>Defendant</u>") seeking the avoidance and recovery of preferential transfers received by the Defendant (among other relief), pursuant to 11 U.S.C. (the "<u>Bankruptcy Code</u>") §§ 547 and 550. In support hereof, the Trustee states as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(a) and 1334(b), and District of Maine Local Rule of Civil Procedure 83.6, whereby all civil proceedings arising under the Bankruptcy Code, or arising in or related to cases under the Bankruptcy Code, are automatically referred to this Court.

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2. Venue of this proceeding is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

3. This matter is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(A) and (F), and this Court has authority to enter final orders and judgment herein.

4. The Trustee consents to the entry of final orders by the Bankruptcy Court in this adversary proceeding.

BACKGROUND, PARTIES, AND STANDING

5. On August 7, 2013 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. (the "<u>Debtor</u>") filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

6. On August 21, 2013, the Trustee was appointed as the Debtor's chapter 11 bankruptcy trustee pursuant to § 1163 of the Bankruptcy Code, and has, since that date, continued to function as the Court-supervised fiduciary of the Debtor's estate.

7. The Trustee has standing to bring the causes of action herein pursuant to §§ 547(b) and 550(a) of the Bankruptcy Code.

8. The Debtor is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, which historically conducted its business operations from its principal office in Hermon, Maine.

9. Upon information and belief, the Defendant is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business at 103 School Street, P.O. Box 125, Oakfield, Maine 04763.

10. Prior to the Petition Date, the Defendant and the Debtor engaged in business transactions, whereby the Defendant provided the Debtor with goods and/or services.

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11. During the 90-day period prior to the Petition Date (the "<u>Preference Period</u>"), the Debtor transferred property to or for the benefit of the Defendant through payments aggregating an amount not less than \$185,957.70. The details of each of the transfers (collectively, the "<u>Transfers</u>," and each individually a "<u>Transfer</u>") are set forth on <u>Exhibit A</u>, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

<u>FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION</u> (Avoidance of Preferential Transfers – 11 U.S.C. § 547)

12. The Trustee repeats each of the allegations contained above as though fully set forth herein.

13. During the Preference Period, the Defendant was a creditor of the Debtor because the Defendant supplied goods and/or services to the Debtor, and the Debtor was obligated to pay for such goods and/or services.

14. Each Transfer identified on **Exhibit A** was made by the Debtor to the Defendant and paid from the Debtor's bank account at TD Bank.

15. Each Transfer identified on **Exhibit A** was made to or for the benefit of the Defendant, as payment for goods and/or services provided by the Defendant to the Debtor.

16. Each Transfer was made for or on account of an antecedent debt or debts owed by the Debtor to the Defendant before such Transfer was made, as asserted by the Defendant and memorialized in the invoices identified on **Exhibit A**, each of which constituted a "debt" or "claim" (as those terms are defined in the Bankruptcy Code) of the Defendant prior to being paid by the Debtor.

17. Each Transfer was made by the Debtor during the Preference Period.

18. Each Transfer was made while the Debtor was insolvent (as that term is defined in the Bankruptcy Code).

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19. As reflected by the terms of the Disclosure Statement filed in the Debtor's case and the chapter 7 liquidation analysis set forth therein, each Transfer enabled the Defendant to receive more than the Defendant would have received if: (a) the Debtor's case was a case under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code; (b) the Transfer had not been made; and (c) the Defendant received payment on account of the debt paid by the Transfer to the extent provided by the Bankruptcy Code.

20. The Trustee is therefore entitled to avoid the Transfers as preferences pursuant to § 547(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (Recovery of Property – 11. U.S.C. § 550)

21. The Trustee repeats each of the allegations contained above as though fully set forth herein.

22. The Defendant is the initial transferee of each of the Transfers because the Debtor made the Transfers directly to the Defendant by check or wire transfer, as reflected in **Exhibit A**.

23. Because the Trustee is entitled to avoid the Transfers for the reasons set forth above, and because the Defendant is the initial transferee, the Trustee is entitled to recover the value of the Transfers from the Defendant pursuant to § 550 of the Bankruptcy Code.

<u>THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION</u> (Disallowance of Claim – 11. U.S.C. § 502(d))

24. The Trustee repeats each of the allegations contained above as though fully set forth herein.

25. On or about June 13, 2014, the Defendant filed proof of claim No. 242-1, alleging a secured claim in the amount of \$167,228.89 and an unsecured claim in the amount of \$187,872.30 (together, the "<u>Claim</u>").

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26. Because the Trustee is entitled to avoid and recover the Transfers for the reasons set forth above, pursuant to § 502(d) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Claim should be disallowed unless and until the Defendant pays the full amount of the Transfers set forth in <u>Exhibit A</u>.

WHEREFORE, the Trustee seeks entry of judgment: (A) avoiding the Transfers pursuant to § 547 of the Bankruptcy Code; (B) recovering the value of the Transfers from the Defendant pursuant to § 550 of the Bankruptcy Code, along with his costs incurred herein, including attorneys' fees, and pre- and post-judgment interest to the fullest extent allowed by applicable law; (C) disallowing the Defendant's Claim unless and until the Defendant pays the full amount of the Transfers; and (D) granting the Trustee such other and further relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

Dated: August 6, 2015

ROBERT J. KEACH, solely in his capacity as the chapter 11 trustee of MONTREAL, MAINE & ATLANTIC RAILWAY, LTD.

/s/ Timothy J. McKeon

Sam Anderson, Esq. Timothy J. McKeon, Esq. Bernstein Shur Sawyer & Nelson, P.A. 100 Middle Street P.O. Box 9729 Portland, ME 04104-5029 (207) 774-1200 (telephone) (207) 774-1127 (facsimile) Case 13-10670 Doc 1569 Filed 08/06/15 Entered 08/06/15 14:56:40 Desc Main Document Page 6 of 7

<u>Exhibit A</u>

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Case: Montreal Maine & Atlantic Ltd. Preference Period: (5/9/2013 - 8/7/2013) Vendor: Maine Northern Railway

	Dates of			Amount Paid				
	Payments/ Open	Check	Check	or Value of	Invoice	Invoice	Invoice	Check Clear
#	Invoices	No.	Amount	Transfers	Date	No.	Amount	Date
1	5/29/2013	901391	52,527.36	807.95	3/16/2013	500061	807.95	5/29/2013
2	5/29/2013	901391	52,527.36	874.90	3/9/2013	500060	874.90	5/29/2013
3	5/29/2013	901391	52,527.36	19,564.02	3/23/2013	200138	19,564.02	5/29/2013
4	5/29/2013	901391	52,527.36	3,995.00	3/23/2013	200137	3,995.00	5/29/2013
5	5/29/2013	901391	52,527.36	26,146.64	4/6/2013	200132	26,146.64	5/29/2013
6	5/29/2013	901391	52,527.36	1,138.85	4/6/2013	200131	1,138.85	5/29/2013
7	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	765.70	5/11/2013	500068	765.70	6/21/2013
8	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	798.98	5/4/2013	500067	798.98	6/21/2013
9	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	508.46	4/20/2013	500065	508.46	6/21/2013
10	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	1,278.55	4/13/2013	500064	1,278.55	6/21/2013
11	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	456.30	3/30/2013	500063	456.30	6/21/2013
12	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	943.15	3/23/2013	500062	943.15	6/21/2013
13	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	115.70	4/6/2013	500059	115.70	6/21/2013
14	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	13,248.18	5/11/2013	200150	13,248.18	6/21/2013
15	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	6,795.70	5/11/2013	200149	6,795.70	6/21/2013
16	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	25,448.65	5/4/2013	200148	25,448.65	6/21/2013
17	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	1,431.00	5/4/2013	200147	1,431.00	6/21/2013
18	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	17,228.78	4/27/2013	200146	17,228.78	6/21/2013
19	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	6,421.85	4/27/2013	200145	6,421.85	6/21/2013
20	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	13,341.73	4/20/2013	200144	13,341.73	6/21/2013
21	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	2,494.85	4/20/2013	200143	2,494.85	6/21/2013
22	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	19,813.07	4/13/2013	200142	19,813.07	6/21/2013
23	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	9,117.85	4/13/2013	200141	9,117.85	6/21/2013
24	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	12,370.44	3/30/2013	200140	12,370.44	6/21/2013
25	6/21/2013	901420	133,430.34	851.40	3/30/2013	200139	851.40	6/21/2013

\$ 185,957.70

\$ 185,957.70

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B104 (FORM 104) (08/07)

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING COVER SHE (Instructions on Reverse)	ET ADVERSARY PROCEEDING NUMBER (Court Use Only)			
PLAINTIFFS	DEFENDANTS			
Robert J. Keach, solely in his capacity as the chapter 11 trustee for Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.	Maine Northern Railway Company			
ATTORNEYS (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone No.) D. Sam Anderson, Esq. Michael Sledband, Esq. Timothy Mckeon, Esq. Bernstein Shur Sawyer & Nelson, P.A. 100 Middle Street, Portland, ME 04104 (207) 774-1200	ATTORNEYS (If Known)			
PARTY (Check One Box Only)	PARTY (Check One Box Only)			
□ Debtor □ U.S. Trustee/Bankruptcy Admin	□ Debtor □ U.S. Trustee/Bankruptcy Admin			
\Box Creditor \Box Other	\square Creditor \square Other			
Trustee				
CAUSE OF ACTION (WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE	OF ACTION. INCLUDING ALL U.S. STATUTES INVOLVED)			
Avoidance and recovery of preferential transfers.				
(Number up to five (5) boxes starting with lead cause of action as				
FRBP 7001(1) - Recovery of Money/Property 11-Recovery of money/property - §542 turnover of property	FRBP 7001(6) – Dischargeability (continued)			
Image: State of the state	61-Dischargeability - \$523(a)(5), domestic support 68-Dischargeability - \$523(a)(6), willful and malicious injury			
□ 13-Recovery of money/property - §548 fraudulent transfer	□ 63-Dischargeability - §523(a)(8), student loan			
X 14-Recovery of money/property - other	64-Dischargeability - §523(a)(15), divorce or separation obligation			
	(other than domestic support)			
FRBP 7001(2) – Validity, Priority or Extent of Lien	65-Dischargeability - other			
□ 21-Validity, priority or extent of lien or other interest in property	EDDD 7001/7) Internation Dallas			
FRBP 7001(3) – Approval of Sale of Property	FRBP 7001(7) – Injunctive Relief 71-Injunctive relief – imposition of stay			
□ 31-Approval of sale of property of estate and of a co-owner - §363(h)	\square 72-Injunctive relief – other			
FRBP 7001(4) Objection/Revocation of Discharge	-			
\square 41-Objection / revocation of discharge - $\S727(c)_{,(d),(e)}$	FRBP 7001(8) Subordination of Claim or Interest 81-Subordination of claim or interest			
	51-Subordination of claim or interest			
FRBP 7001(5) – Revocation of Confirmation	FRBP 7001(9) Declaratory Judgment			
51-Revocation of confirmation	91-Declaratory judgment			
FRBP 7001(6) – Dischargeability	FRBP 7001(10) Determination of Removed Action			
66-Dischargeability - §523(a)(1),(14),(14A) priority tax claims	01-Determination of removed claim or cause			
62-Dischargeability - §523(a)(2), false pretenses, false representation,				
actual fraud	Other			
67-Dischargeability - §523(a)(4), fraud as fiduciary, embezzlement, larceny	SS-SIPA Case – 15 U.S.C. §§78aaa et.seq.			
(continued next column)	02-Other (e.g. other actions that would have been brought in state court if unrelated to bankruptcy case)			
□ Check if this case involves a substantive issue of state law	□ Check if this is asserted to be a class action under FRCP 23			
Check if a jury trial is demanded in complaint	Demand \$185,957.70			
Other Relief Sought				

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BANKRUPTCY CASE IN WHICH THIS ADVERSARY PROCEEDING ARISES							
NAME OF DEBTOR Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.	BANKRUPTCY CASE NO. 13-10670						
DISTRICT IN WHICH CASE IS PENDING Maine		DIVISION OFFICE Portland	NAME OF JUDGE Judge Peter G. Cary				
RELATED A	ADVERSARY I	PROCEEDING (IF ANY)					
PLAINTIFF	DEFENDAN	r	ADVERSARY PROCEEDING NO.				
DISTRICT IN WHICH ADVERSARY IS PENDI	NG	DIVISION OFFICE	NAME OF JUDGE				
SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR PLAINTIFF)							
DATE August 6, 2015	PRINT NAME OF ATTORNEY (OR PLAINTIFF) D. Sam Anderson, Esq.						

INSTRUCTIONS

The filing of a bankruptcy case creates an "estate" under the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court which consists of all of the property of the debtor, wherever that property is located. Because the bankruptcy estate is so extensive and the jurisdiction of the court so broad, there may be lawsuits over the property or property rights of the estate. There also may be lawsuits concerning the debtor's discharge. If such a lawsuit is filed in a bankruptcy court, it is called an adversary proceeding.

A party filing an adversary proceeding must also must complete and file Form 104, the Adversary Proceeding Cover Sheet, unless the party files the adversary proceeding electronically through the court's Case Management/Electronic Case Filing system (CM/ECF). (CM/ECF captures the information on Form 104 as part of the filing process.) When completed, the cover sheet summarizes basic information on the adversary proceeding. The clerk of court needs the information to process the adversary proceeding and prepare required statistical reports on court activity.

The cover sheet and the information contained on it do not replace or supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, the Bankruptcy Rules, or the local rules of court. The cover sheet, which is largely selfexplanatory, must be completed by the plaintiff's attorney (or by the plaintiff if the plaintiff is not represented by an attorney). A separate cover sheet must be submitted to the clerk for each complaint filed.

١.

Plaintiffs and Defendants. Give the names of the plaintiffs and defendants exactly as they appear on the complaint.

Attorneys. Give the names and addresses of the attorneys, if known.

Party. Check the most appropriate box in the first column for the plaintiffs and the second column for the defendants.

Demand. Enter the dollar amount being demanded in the complaint.

Signature. This cover sheet must be signed by the attorney of record in the box on the second page of the form. If the plaintiff is represented by a law firm, a member of the firm must sign. If the plaintiff is pro se, that is, not represented by an attorney, the plaintiff must sign.