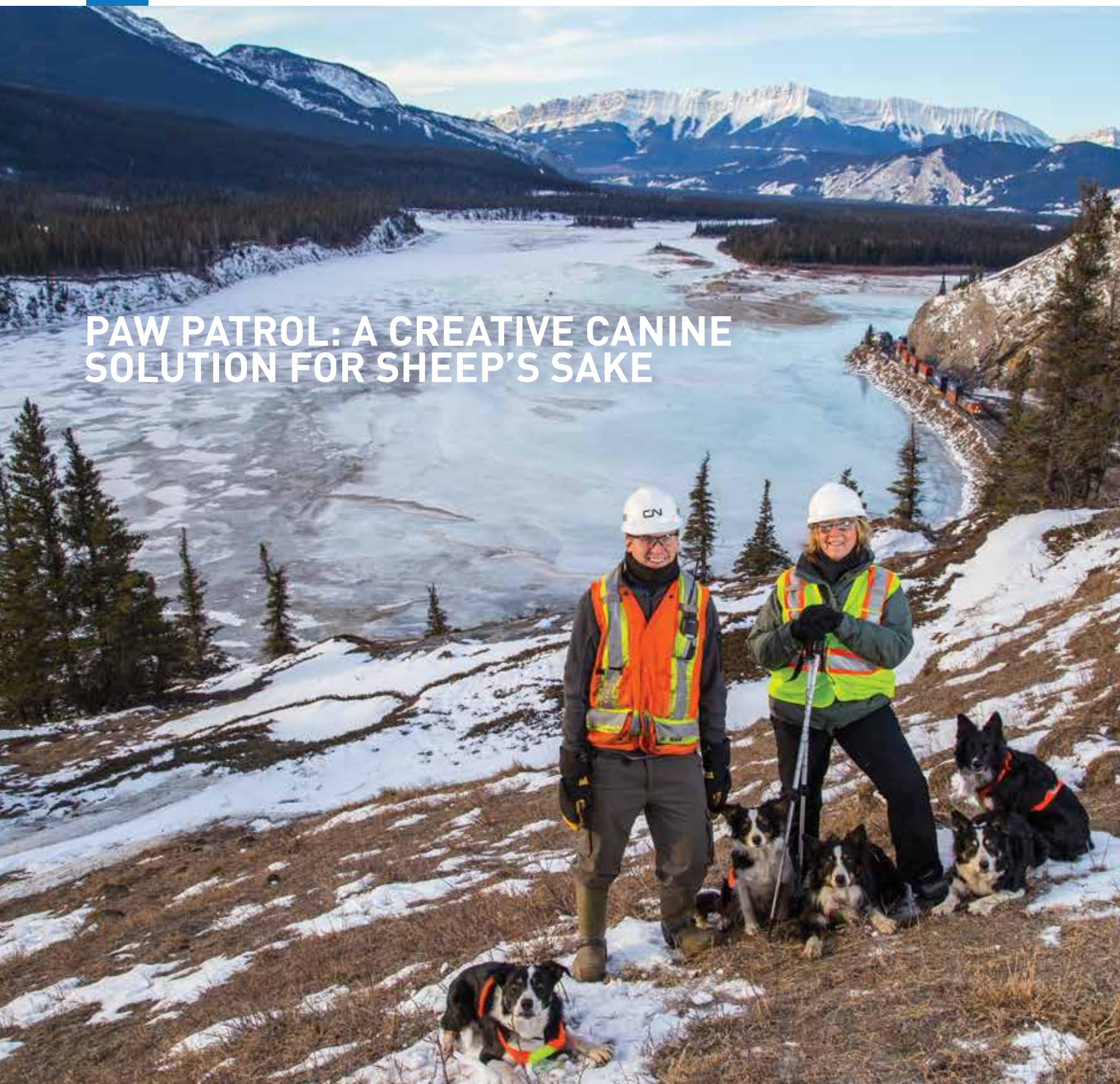


# PAW PATROL: A CREATIVE CANINE SOLUTION FOR SHEEP'S SAKE



by Marina Doray

ACCOMPANIED BY COREY JOHNSTON (LEFT), CN ENVIRONMENT OFFICER, AND CHRIS JOBE, DOG HANDLER, CANINE SOLUTIONS, THE DOGS (NAMED GWEN, JILL, FLY, IKE AND TAFF) PATROL THE CN SITE LOOKING TO LEAD BIGHORN SHEEP TO SAFETY.



An innovative wildlife management strategy by CN's Environment team successfully kept bighorn sheep out of harm's way in Alberta's Jasper National Park earlier this year.

A team of specially trained working border collies and their trainer from a local company was brought in by CN to patrol the site of a grain train derailment on the boundary of the park where the sheep naturally gathered. The five dogs worked during the day while the site was being cleaned up, herding the sheep away from the tracks and the spilled wheat, which was harmful to the sheep if eaten in large quantities.

"We came up with the idea of using the dogs during a brainstorming session," recalls **Corey Johnston**, Environment Officer, who is based in Edmonton, AB. "We had tried other deterrents, such as electric fences and noise cannons –



even inflatable Christmas decorations with moving parts! The sheep quickly became accustomed to them and didn't even flinch after a while."

Border collies are known for their herding talents, and their sharp focus and attention helped detect wandering sheep from afar. The dogs worked the sheep by rounding up the animals in a group and efficiently directing their movement to another area. "It was a natural solution that was 100 per cent effective," says Corey. "We were very happy to have the creative effort pay off."



THE BRULE TUNNEL, ALSO IN JASPER NATIONAL PARK, HAS BEEN ANOTHER FOCUS OF CN'S EFFORTS TO PROTECT BIGHORN SHEEP. CN HAS CONSTRUCTED A FENCE STRUCTURE TO PREVENT THE SHEEP FROM GOING ON THE TRACK AND ENTERING THE TUNNEL BY WAY OF A SPECIALLY DESIGNED TEFLON SHEETING THAT IS TOO SLIPPERY FOR THEIR HOOVES.