



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Manitoba Trucking Association

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

Dennis Barkman Named Manitoba's 2009 Driver of the Year

Winnipeg, MB – July 7, 2009 - Dennis Barkman, a long-time employee of Penner International Inc, was recently awarded top honours at the 2009 Manitoba Driver Awards Banquet. With his 27 years of driving experience, safety record, and community involvement, Barkman was an easy choice for the selection committee.

Barkman's experience in the trucking industry is wide-ranging. He grew up on a farm in rural Manitoba. After he left the family farm as a young man, he drove a cement mixer truck, feed truck, worked as a city driver, and hauled lumber from northern Manitoba over the course of a number of years. He did return to farming, but trucking was in his blood by this time, and he became a long-haul highway driver. He hasn't looked back since becoming a long-haul driver, having driven for well over 20 years since he returned to the trucking industry.

Barkman's clear abstract and safety record is also enviable. He has taken driver training courses with Penner International and Reimer Express Lines. He has received numerous "Compliments of Driving Skill and Courtesy" nods from DriverCheck. He has also taken defensive driving courses for driving school buses. According to Jac Doerksen, Driver Relations and O/O Business Development Manager at Penner International Inc, Barkman "continues to strive for excellence with safe and on-time delivery. He consistently maintains a great attitude. We are lucky to have him as part of our team." His practical experience and classroom knowledge have both led Dennis to create something of a legacy in the trucking industry: he has taught his own son how to drive a long-haul tractor as well.

Finally, Dennis is committed to his community. He has worked as a Sunday

school department leader and was involved with a children's camp for ten years (for four of those years, he was the camp director). His hobbies include woodworking, photography, and being able to spend quality time with this family.

The Manitoba Driver of the Year Award is presented annually to one of the award winners from the previous year's Driver of the Month competition. These awards are given based on commitment to industry, safety, outstanding acts, and customer service. From the Driver of the Month award winners, one recipient emerges to win the Manitoba Driver of the Year Award. This award is sponsored by Volvo Trucks Canada. The Manitoba Trucking Association would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dennis Barkman for his outstanding contributions to the trucking industry. It is as a result of drivers like Mr. Barkman that our industry is able to be safe, customer-service-oriented, and successful.