

Empress 2816 Steam Locomotive
The 'Last Spike' Promotional Tour - May through July 2024
Calgary to Mexico City and back again

The 4-6-4 Hudson-type steam locomotive was built in December 1930 by Montreal Locomotive Works. Originally intended for fast freight and passenger service, the locomotive worked primarily in Eastern Canada for nearly 30 years before retiring on May 26, 1960.

It served as a roving steam-powered ambassador for Canadian Pacific throughout Canada and the U.S. before being placed in storage in 2012. Now, after a decade of slumber, the engine has been carefully prepared to once again travel the rails.

Canadian Pacific (CP) wanted a title that conveyed elegance and nobility with a tie-in to CP's history. CP's premier passenger liners were all titled "Empress", (Empress of Australia, Empress of Russia, Empress of Britain, etc.) and the call sign of CP Air Lines was also "Empress".

Vital Statistics about The Empress:

Locomotive Number: 2816

Class: H1b

Builder: Montreal Locomotive Works

Date built: December, 1930

Last revenue run: May 26, 1960

Type: Hudson

Wheel arrangement: 4 – 6- 4

Tractive effort: 45,300 lb (20,548 kg)

Driving wheel diameter: 75 in (190.5 cm)

Total operating weight (including tender): 643,000 lb (291,665 kg)

Extreme length (including tender): 91 ft 2 in (27.8 metres)

Extreme height: 15 ft 3 in (4.6 metres)

Original cost: \$116,555

Converted from coal to oil: March, 1999