



November 22, 2011

Every year, Ontario Northland's production group carries out a variety of track programs throughout our system. This system includes 700 miles of track and spans south to North Bay east to Rouyn-Noranda west to Hearst and north to Moosonee. To complete this work, most in remote locations, Ontario Northland houses their workers in boarding car consists. Therefore, every year, catering contractors are required in order to plan, prepare, cook as well as serve breakfast, lunch and dinner to approximately fifty men.

In 2011, Ontario Northland contracted it's catering to V.I.P. Catering and Janitorial Services (V.I.P.) Prior to the boarding car consists being put into service after winter storage, V.I.P. completed a thorough cleaning of all our twenty rail cars (i.e. Shower cars, sleeping quarters, kitchen/dining areas, recreational cars) used by the workers. The quality and effort that Joanne Beauvais and her staff put into cleaning our boarding cars was tremendous. It not only exceeded our expectations, but set a new standard in the level of cleanliness we will expect in the future.

Our production groups boarding cars are divided into two separate consists, a smaller utility gang consisting of approximately 15 men and a larger Rail/Tie gang consisting of approximately 35 men. These two gangs were staffed by V.I.P to provide the required catering to our workers. V.I.P staff were responsible for the planning, preparation, cooking, presenting and serving of breakfast, lunch and dinner. V.I.P. provided well-balanced menus that offered wholesome and appealing selections of dishes based on a varying cycle. Menu choices offered low fat, low carbohydrate choices and an ethnic variety together with all the appropriate salads, condiments and deserts as well as an after meal service of beverages and snacks. All deserts were home baked rather than store bought. Also, on a daily basis, V.I.P was responsible for keeping the kitchen/dining area clean and sanitized. V.I.P. staff completed this with great success and I did not receive one complaint, but praise on the quality and quantity of the food being prepared for our workers as well as on the cleanliness.

I look forward to working with V.I.P. Catering and Janitorial Services again in the near future and for years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. M. L.' with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Superintendent Programs
Ontario Northland