



ADVANCING TRADE THROUGH TRANSPORTATION

In the Corridor

FEBRUARY, 2010

Industry and International Notes

The Global Transportation Hub Authority (GTHA) Board of Directors held its first meeting in February in Regina, Saskatchewan. The Chair of the GTHA Board is Wayne Elhard, an MLA in the Province of Saskatchewan and a highly regarded former Minister of Highways and Infrastructure. The GTHA will plan, develop, construct, operate and manage the Global Transportation Hub (GTH) intent on establishing Regina as a major Western Canadian transportation and logistics centre. Overall footprint for the GTH will be 1,400 acres. Initiatives already underway include construction of a one million square foot Loblaw's distribution centre. Other plans for the GTH include ramping up rail capacity and improving supply chain access and efficiency. For more information visit: www.gtha.ca.

While disappointed in a February announcement of an increase in the Air Travellers Security Charge (ATSC), the Canadian Airports Council (CAC) pledged

their commitment to working closely with the federal government on an upcoming, comprehensive review of the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA). CATSA is the federal crown responsible for pre-board security screening of passengers and their belongings. CATSA is also responsible for baggage screening through airport explosives detection systems. As well, CATSA is responsible for both the screening and tracking of non-passengers entering restricted areas at airports.

Figures released in February indicate Taiwan's economy grew at an annualized rate of 18.0% in the last quarter of 2009. Reportedly, this was driven by demand for hi-tech products from mainland China. Thailand's economy also grew sharply in the last three months of 2009, expanding at an annual rate of 5.8% as it exited recession. Reports were that Thailand's growth was also fuelled by increased exports to China. China's economy grew by 10.9% in the last quarter of 2009. China is on course to overtake Japan as the world's second largest economy.

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India's economy will grow by 7.2% for the year ending in March, 2010, raising chances that stimulus measures implemented to maintain strong growth during the global downturn, may soon be withdrawn. Attention in India was now turning towards cooling rising prices, with some expecting government to raise interest rates earlier than expected.

Aircraft makers Boeing and Airbus, while at the Singapore Air Show, reportedly predicted more than 8,000 planes worth up to (USD) \$1.2 trillion will be sold in the Asia-Pacific region in the next 2 decades. The region is emerging as the world's largest air transport market, ahead of both Europe and the USA.

Supporting anecdotal reports from carriers and shippers that capacity in some sectors of trucking was getting tighter, the American Trucking Association (ATA) truck tonnage index showed its strongest increase since January 2005, reaching 110.4, the index's highest level since September of 2008. The January, 2010 surge followed the worst year for trucking volume since 1982.

The world's first major Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) contract for large ships was signed in February. The agreement between OceanSaver and Hyundai Heavy Industries, the world's leading shipbuilder, covers three supertankers on order for Oman Shipping Company. The first ever BWMS agreement signifies a breakthrough for the International Maritime Organization's Ballast Water Management convention as well as for OceanSaver.

Saskatchewan Notes

Effective February 1st, the Province made changes to the regulatory chain regarding long combination vehicles and improved harmonization with the Province of Alberta. Turnpike doubles, triple-trailers and Queen City Triples can be operated at 100 km/h, up from 90 km/h, on designated four-lane highways. Additionally, later in 2010, B-train gross vehicle weights will be increased to 63,500 tonnes from their current cap of 62,500.

Yukon Notes

Joint funding was announced in February by the federal and territorial government for road infrastructure improvements. The roads slated for repairs and upgrades include Annie Lake Road, Fish lake Road, and Jackson Lake Road. The federal financial share of support for this work comes from the \$4 billion Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. It provides funding to provincial, territorial, municipal and community construction-ready infrastructure projects for completion by March 31, 2011.

Manitoba Notes

The province's 2,200 kilometres of winter roads were all open in February, allowing large trucks and other vehicles to get needed goods from the south to remote communities in the north. Each year, approximately 30,000 Manitoba residents in 23 northern communities without permanent roads are served. Over 2,500 shipments of supplies including food and fuel are trucked on winter roads each year.



Northwest Territories Notes

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) announced in February the Deh Cho Bridge construction project, now 50% completed, is expected to be \$15 million over budget. With the total price tag for completion now set at \$182 million, the GNWT say cost overruns arose from bridge redesign, causing a year project delay and lost revenue. Also, new quotes were necessary for the final phase of construction. The GNWT reported having reached agreement with an experienced project management team and negotiations for a new general contractor were in their final stages. They maintain all this will allow the project to remain on track for completion by November 2011, satisfying a key expectation of lenders.

Planning was underway in February for Caribou Carnival '10, being held March 18-21 in Yellowknife. Organizers are intent on bringing those taking part the best Caribou Carnival ever! For more information, visit the event website: <http://www.cariboucarnival.ca/>.

Registrations were being accepted for Northern Housing Forum 2010: Sustainable Solutions: *The Future of Northern Housing*. The conference is being hosted by the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation with support from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). Occurring March 22 – 25, the Circumpolar Housing Conference is being held in the Town of Inuvik, another NCDC member organization. For more information, visit: <http://www.nhf2010.ca/>.

Alberta Notes



Photo: G. Aldridge

19 acres of lake surface in northwest Alberta was prepared to stage a popular annual pond hockey event, attracting Peace region residents of all ages

This year's Alberta Pond Hockey World Championship Qualification Tournament was a resounding success. 78 teams from across Canada played a total of 355 games on Lac Cardinal in northwest Alberta February 11-14 while competing in Alberta's largest pond hockey tournament.

Registrations were underway for the Regional Economic Development Initiatives (REDI) 2010 Symposium – Building Northern Economies & Partnerships. The event is scheduled to take place March 15-17 in High Level, Alberta. To register today, visit: www.rediconference.com.

The newly designated County of Northern Lights announced plans to formally launch its Economic Development Strategy in March.

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British Columbia Notes

The Province of British Columbia signed a Communities First Agreement with the City of Prince Rupert in February. The City of Prince Rupert has picked six priority projects to work on under the new agreement in support of the community's future economic development. To find out more about Communities First Agreements, visit: www.ruralbc.gov.bc.ca.

Federal Notes

The Government of Canada has negotiated open, new or expanded air service agreements with almost fifty countries since January 2006. In February they announced the successful conclusion of an expanded air services agreement with Cuba. It will allow more airlines from both countries to operate scheduled air services between any Canadian and Cuban cities.

Also announced by the Government of Canada in February was the designation of an additional Canadian airline, effective immediately, to offer new flights between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago. More information on air service agreements can be found on the Transport Canada website. Visit: www.tc.gc.ca.



Photo: G.Aldridge

A common scene on northern highways this time of year, drivers need exercise caution

NCDC Notes

Congratulations are extended to a longstanding NCDC member, the Municipal District of Northern Lights No. 22 located in northwest Alberta. Through Order in Council of the Province of Alberta, dated February 3rd, they officially became the County of Northern Lights!

Congratulations to NCDC member, the City of Terrace for hosting the 2010 BC Winter Games, March 4-7! Congratulations as well to NCDC member, CN, for their sponsorship of this event.

Congratulations to NCDC member, the City of Grande Prairie for hosting the 2010 Arctic Winter Games, March 6-13!

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