



## **“IN THE CORRIDOR”**

**April, 2008**

**A monthly publication of the Northwest Corridor  
Development Corporation (NCDC)**

### **Alberta Notes**

- First Session of the 27<sup>th</sup> Legislature opened April 14<sup>th</sup> and budget was introduced April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Infrastructure spending is to increase by 19.5% up to \$638 million while Transportation increases their department's capital investment by 30.2% to \$1.94 billion. Represented in this are a number of improvements to highways/interchanges in the northeast (like Highway #63 to Fort McMurray)
- TransAlta Corp announced intentions to develop a large carbon dioxide capture and storage facility. If successful in achieving the funding required, testing will start at a coal-fired generating station west of Edmonton in 2012. The project will take place in partnership with Alstom Power Systems, a European engineering and equipment giant, using their proprietary chilled ammonia process
- In support of continued oil sands reclamation work, Alberta announced a \$3 million Energy Innovation Fund grant. The grant will go towards developing new technology to assist with tailings pond reclamation; the waste material created during oil sands extraction. Such tailings ponds received national attention due to destruction of some waterfowl in April
- Following last month's announcement Bruce Power continued with a series of public meetings concerning potential construction of a nuclear power plant in northwest Alberta. The Company's President says they are prepared to spend a significant amount of money for the opportunity though chances of its actual construction are only 20% at this time

### **British Columbia Notes**

- Pacific Coastal Airlines announced its departure from the communities of Kitimat and Terrace after serving the communities with air service for a little more than a year. An airline spokesperson cited a lack of growth in market share left them with no alternative
- The Western Transportation Advisory Council (WESTAC) held its Annual Meeting in Victoria. It was well attended by public and private organizations and governments from across Western Canada, the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The theme for the two days was, Creating Competitive Advantages in a Global Transportation System
- Due to falling demand and poor pricing for softwood lumber, announcements were made on reducing production volumes, and accordingly, workweeks, by industry officials

### **NCDC Organizational Notes**

- Board of Directors meeting held in Prince George, April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Welcomed on board, Gerard Aldridge, as Executive Director and said good bye to retiring Executive Director, Graham Kedgley
- A Prince George and Region Trade Mission to Beijing, China takes place June 14 – 21, 2008 NCDC appointed Board Chair, Don Zurowski as a mission delegate; NCDC related planning is underway

### **North West Territories Notes**

- The Honourable Norman Yakeleya, Minister of Transportation for the Northwest Territories and Minister Patterk Netster from Nunavut attended the Council of Transportation Ministers meeting in Gatineau Quebec. They highlighted the importance of additional infrastructure in the north to enhance sovereignty and security for the benefit of all Canadians
- Minister Yakeleya also attended the WESTAC Annual meeting in Victoria where he addressed NWT infrastructure and transportation needs with those in attendance

## Manitoba Notes

- Total funding for Manitoba's roads and highways, including preservation, upgrades and expansion was announced as \$415 million in this year's budget. Included in this funding is engineering work on the overpass at Highway 16 And the Trans Canada Highway located near the Saskatchewan border. Finance Minister, Greg Selinger said the completed overpass will reduce delays and greenhouse gas emissions while improving safety
- Also a budget announcement was a first installment of \$15 million for increased inspection, maintenance and rehabilitation of provincial bridges. A total of \$125 is to be eventually spent in this effort

## Saskatchewan Notes

- Coming off a record year for value and quantity of potash sold (\$3 billion on 17.4 million mt.) in 2007, April sales were secured at an increase in price of \$400 per mt. over just a year ago
- Directly employing 3,500 people in the province, Saskatchewan produces one-third of the world's supply of potash
- Mosaic Company announced a proposed \$3.15 billion expansion over the next 12 years; includes potash mines at Esterhazy and Colonsay, in the corridor and also Belle Plaine
- April saw the single sale record broken for Crown petroleum and natural gas rights. At \$265 million, April actually eclipsed the record for total annual sales (\$250 million set in 2007). The next sale will be June 9, 2008
- The Trans Canada Yellow Head Highway Association held a successful Annual Conference in Yorkton

## Federal Notes

- Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Communities requested comments on the draft terms of reference for the rail freight service review. The review was promised as amendments to shipper protection provisions of the Canada Transportation Act proceeded through Parliament

## Yukon Notes

- The Ministers Responsible for Transportation for Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories jointly released, Northern Connections: A Multi-Modal Transportation Blueprint for the North. The transportation blueprint outlines a vision for the development of northern transportation infrastructure which addresses northern infrastructure deficit, promotes economic development and builds sustainable northern communities
- Northern Connections was prepared to both complement as well as build upon northern components of the national transportation strategy, Looking to the Future: A Plan for Investing in Canada's Transportation System, released by the Council of the Federation in December 2005
- "The northern transportation system of the future must support economic development, connect communities to each other and to the South, and provide enhanced sovereignty and security in Canada's North," stated Yukon Highways and Public Works Minister, Archie Lang

**Northwest Corridor**



**Development Corporation**

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The Northwest Corridor Development Corporation  
P.O. Box 1414, Grande Prairie,  
Alberta, Canada T8V 4Z2

<b>Executive Director:</b> Gerard Aldridge Telephone (Primary): 780.567.4991 Tel/Fax (Alternate): 780.494.2529 Email: <a href="mailto:aldridge@nwcorridor.com">aldridge@nwcorridor.com</a>	<b>Board Chair:</b> Don Zurowski Telephone (Primary): 780.567.4991 Tel (Alternate): 250.613.5622 Email: <a href="mailto:don@zurowski.bc.ca">don@zurowski.bc.ca</a>
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