



“IN THE CORRIDOR

July, 2008

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



Federal Notes

- Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, Lawrence Cannon, announced approval this month for Prince George Airport to participate in the international air cargo transshipment program. This allows air cargo to move through Prince George for shipment onward to third countries. It opens the door to future market development opportunities in air cargo when combined with the airport runway expansion underway

British Columbia Notes

- The sale of oil and gas rights this month brings BC's total this year to a new record of \$1.3 billion. 146 of 149 parcels on offer sold for an average price of \$4,596 per hectare
- The province announced \$43.9 million in transportation improvements for the Fort St. John and North Peace region. Cited as beneficial to both residents and industry, it will also serve to support increasing levels of oil and gas exploration, drilling and production in the region
- GeoRush 2008 was announced this month. Geocachers can search for caches of limited-edition commemorative coins in BC provincial parks. It's part of BC150 celebrations.
- The Province had an official opening for the Provincial Permit Centre located in Dawson Creek. Since March of this year, the centre has been the prime permit issuer for the commercial trucking industry for all of BC

- In a series of announcements during a ten-day northern tour, the BC government announced funding for improvements to provincial highways and infrastructure and grants for local roads hard hit by heavy truck traffic. The grants are part of a \$10 million one-time contribution to communities for improvements to local roads most impacted by traffic related to harvest of mountain pine beetle affected timber. In addition this year, the province will spend \$30 million specific to rehabilitation of provincial roads also impacted by harvest of mountain pine beetle infested wood
- Estimated as \$6,000, the province will invest \$25 in the Pacific Carbon Trust per tonne of travel-related emissions made by delegates of this month's Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Summit in Vancouver, BC
- In partnership with the City of Prince Rupert, the provincial government announced this month it will contribute \$350,000 toward renovations of the ferry dock servicing the Alaska Marine Highway. Project work estimated at \$1.2 million in total is to be completed by summer's end. Citing, "early and decisive commitment" from BC's Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure as well as "incredible assistance" from BC Ferries, CN Rail and the Alaska Marine Highways, the Mayor of Prince Rupert, Herb Pond, was quoted as saying, "Together, we have preserved a critical and growing trade-travel corridor that is already bringing significant benefits to communities."



Photo courtesy of: Prince Rupert Port Authority

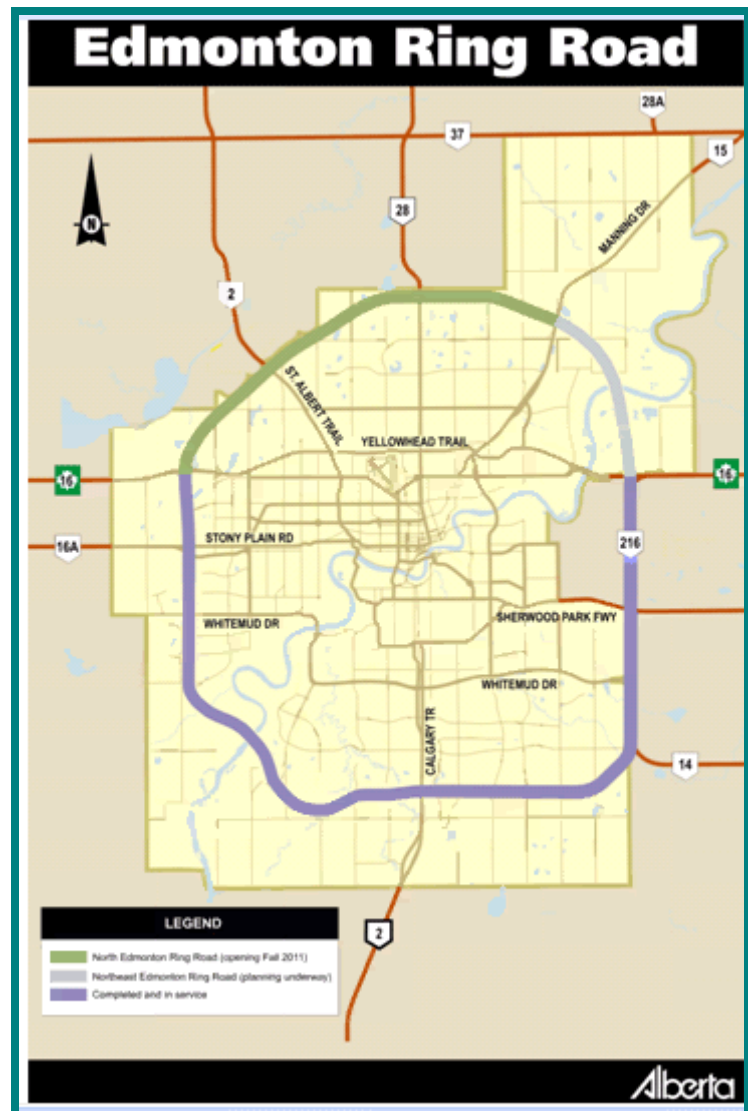
A \$1.2 million renovation to the Alaska Marine Ferry Dock will allow Alaska Ferries to dock at Prince Rupert for many years to come

Alberta Notes

- The province announced this month that 41 of 42 accepted recommendations springing from a 2006 Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee report on development of coalbed methane are either in progress or completed. Contributing about 5% of the province's total gas production last year, coalbed methane remains in large part untapped. It is reported, even if only 10% of coalbed methane can ever be economically recovered, it would represent more than the remaining conventional natural gas reserves of Alberta
- The MLA for the West Yellowhead Constituency, Robin Campbell, was officially named Chair for the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) this month. This regional council serves to advise government on northern Alberta issues and opportunities, furthering development of the region's economy. NADC is served by Executive Director, Dan Dibbelt and has offices in Peace River and Lac La Biche in northern Alberta
- With completion scheduled for fall, 2011, the provincial government announced construction will commence next month on a 21 kilometer ring road around the north end of Edmonton. The project is the third Public-Private Partnership (P3) to be undertaken in the province. When complete this north leg of the ring road (Anthony Henday Drive Northwest) will be free-flow with no signal lights. The project comes in at \$1.42 billion (net present value-NPV). It will include eight traffic interchanges, five flyovers and two rail crossings for a total of twenty seven bridge structures

Manitoba Notes

- Premier Gary Doer joined with other premiers this month in attending the 2008 Council of the Federation annual meeting. Held in Quebec City, the premiers dealt with issues surrounding trade, energy and climate change
- Regional development grants totaling \$544,000 were announced by the province this month. The grants are in support of business development, job creation and support of regional initiatives



Source: Alberta Transportation

A P3 Ring Road Project (depicted in green above) connected to the Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway is projected for completion in 2011

Yukon Notes

- In a cabinet shuffle this month, seven ministers took on new responsibilities. Some to note were Energy Mines and Resources to Minister Brad Cathers, while Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation were assigned to Minister Jim Kenyon
- Premier Dennis Fentie gave a keynote address at the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Summit in Vancouver, BC. PNWER members since 1994, Premier Fentie said of partnerships forged at summits, "we come away with a common understanding of the issues and the will to work together." BC Premier Gordon Campbell, Public Safety Minister, Stockwell Day and US Ambassador to Canada, David Wilkins were also keynotes

Saskatchewan Notes

- Highway 16 east of Lloydminster is slated for improvements. The Government of Saskatchewan will pay for 75 per cent of the \$10 million project which will include the twinning of the Highway, resurfacing costs and the installation of street lights.
- Wayne Elhard, Minister for Highways and Infrastructure congratulated the province's newest shortline railway, Torch River Rail Inc., on the occasion of their official opening this month. The province has three programs in place to support and foster shortline rail by: 1) assisting in preparing business plans and feasibility studies, 2) providing interest free loans toward purchase, and, 3) providing grants for infrastructure improvement

Industry Notes

- Loblaw Company Limited, Canada's largest food distributor, has chosen the Province of Saskatchewan as home for a new western Canadian distribution facility. Locating by a rail intermodal facility, construction on the centre is expected to start this fall. Representing a \$200 million investment in the province, it will be owned and operated by a third party logistics firm on behalf of Loblaw. In order to accommodate the proposed 1,400 trucks per week, Saskatchewan's Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has begun plans for significant road improvements in the area
- Thermo King, a subsidiary of Ingersoll-Rand, this month, launched a new SB+ line of temperature control units. Running with SmartPower, in addition to the standard diesel engine, they can operate on electric power. Thermo King claims they could cut operating costs by up to 75%. The company manufactures temperature control systems for trailers, truck bodies, buses, ocean containers and rail cars
- The International Air Transport Association (IATA) reported world air cargo volumes dropped in June for the first time in 3 years. Cross border freight is considered a leading indicator on the health of world trade, reported as taking another hit with the breakdown of talks in Geneva on opening up global trade

NCDC Organizational Notes

- The NCDC Annual Conference and General Meeting take place October 7 – 9, 2008. "Take Ten in the Corridor" will be held in Peace River, Alberta at the Belle Petroleum Centre. It promises to be informative, futuristic and thought provoking. Plans are for sessions on economic development, trade and tourism to run concurrently with sessions on transportation on October 8th. As such, make sure organizationally you've got the people you need for coverage registered to attend as you won't want to miss out on any of it.
- Sponsorship opportunities are available for the upcoming NCDC conference. Contact Gerard Aldridge for a sponsorship rate card today
- A Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted between NCDC, Initiatives Prince George and the Chinese Federation of Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP). Through this framework, future cooperation like eventual exchanges of logistics personnel may occur. This could prove invaluable in promoting the northwest corridor of Canada as the corridor of choice to and from the Asia-Pacific region

North West Territories Notes

- Heavy smoke from forest fires in July lead to highway travel advisories being issued at times on territorial highways



Source: NWT Department of Transportation

A temporary bridge and crane work underway on the Mackenzie River at the site of the Deh Cho Bridge, a P3 project to be completed in late 2010

The Northwest Corridor

Development Corporation (NCDC)

Connecting Canada with our Global Trading partners by efforts to enhance and sustain transportation linkages through **Canada's Northwest Corridor**

For a membership in our non-profit public/private partnership of member organizations, or for information on our 10th anniversary conference in Peace River, Alberta, October 7 - 9, 2008, write, call or visit our website today.

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