



## **“IN THE CORRIDOR**

**May, 2008**

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



### **Saskatchewan Notes**

- The province joined an international oil and gas agency called the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) this month. Existing since 1935, IOGCC's mission is encouraging efficient and safe recovery of oil and gas resources with health and the environment protected
- Development of a Centre of Excellence for Transportation and Infrastructure to be located at the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon was announced by the province in partnership with the U of S. Predictions are for state of the art road materials to be developed as well as cutting edge infrastructure designs and management systems
- Community Airport funding announced included a number of airports in the corridor. A total of nine communities will receive financial assistance for airport improvements ranging from runway lighting, to resurfacing or runway extension
- A new program funded through the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure will provide infrastructure funding to shortline railways on a 50/50 cost share basis. Provincially regulated, Saskatchewan has eight shortline railways in operation
- Premier, Brad Wall, hosted the 2008 Western Premiers' Conference May 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> in Prince Albert with discussions on competitiveness, US/Canadian border and energy issues, environmental sustainability as well as issues of rural and remote communities

### **Yukon Notes**

- The Yukon celebrated Mining and Geology week, May 26<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup> as a way for people of all ages to learn benefits to be derived from responsible/sustainable mineral resource development
- A visit was paid by officials of the Borough of Skagway, Alaska, including their Mayor, Tom Cochran. Discussions centered on the potential of a Skagway Port development with their recent commissioning of a development strategy and business case study
- Deputy Premier Elaine Taylor, in attending the Western Premiers' Conference, raised concerns with the U.S. Ambassador to Canada, also in attendance, over potential negative impacts on Yukon Tourism from American passenger vessel regulations
- On May 30<sup>th</sup>, Yukon was announced as host, and Dawson City as site, for the next Western Premiers' Conference to be held June 17 - 19, 2009

### **British Columbia Notes**

- The largest ever monthly sale of oil and gas rights took place May 21<sup>st</sup>. Parcels southwest of Fort St. John and northeast of Fort Nelson were key in the sale which generated higher than ever average prices per hectare and per drilling license as well as a record \$441 million in bonus bids
- The province recognized 150 years of contributions to the economy made by the industry during Mining Week held May 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>
- The province announced a major carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulphide gas capture and storage research project on May 26<sup>th</sup>. It involves capture and storage research at Spectra Energy Transmission's Fort Nelson gas processing plant
- The BC Government will establish a secretariat, taking a leading role in support of the Western Water Stewardship Council which was announced as a new joint initiative flowing from the Western Premiers' Conference

## Alberta Notes

- Highway construction began with Alberta committed to record highway infrastructure investment. Projects underway in the north include bridge overpass construction on Highway 43 to allow truck traffic to bypass the City of Grande Prairie and repaving of Highway 43 from Grande Prairie airport to north city limits. Others include work on the Dunvegan Bridge and construction on Highway 63 to Fort McMurray and Fort Mackay



*Reduced to one lane, traffic waits at Dunvegan Bridge over the Peace River in northwest Alberta*

## Manitoba Notes

- Announced funding in May from the Mineral Exploration Assistance Program (MEAP) will assist in exploring for commodities including: gold, nickel, copper/zinc, diamonds, uranium and silica sand
- Rehabilitation of some "Orphan" mines will be assisted through the province's Environmental Liability Account, established in 2006. Funding announced this month will be used in the next two years for rehabilitation of 16 of such sites, some dating back to the 1920's

## North West Territories Notes

- Ferry service resumed on the Mackenzie River near Fort Providence with restricted hours of operation due in part to a shortage of Marine Engineers, in spite of attempts for recruitment
- The Territorial Budget was introduced May 22<sup>nd</sup> and includes infrastructure investments of \$180 million for the 2008/2009 fiscal year


## NCDC Organizational Notes

- Preparations continue for participating in a June Trade Mission to Beijing
- Welcome to the City of Grande Prairie, once again an NCDC member in 2007/08

## Federal Notes

- The Freight Technologies Demonstration Fund and the Freight Technologies Incentives Program were announced as ecoFREIGHT initiatives of Transport Canada designed to help the transport industry adopt available technology to reduce green house gas emissions and other air pollutants
- In an effort to foster ocean shipping back haul opportunities and further relationship building between Canadian and Chinese business, Transport Canada hosted a May 22<sup>nd</sup> Trade and Logistics Development Forum. Taking place at the British Columbia - Canada Pavilion in Beijing, the forum coincided with official opening day of the Pavilion

**Northwest Corridor**



**Development Corporation**

**For a membership or your transportation, trade or tourism inquiries, get "In the Corridor" today!**

Visit [www.nwcorridor.com](http://www.nwcorridor.com) or contact :

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>
--	--