



ADVANCING TRADE THROUGH TRANSPORTATION

In the Corridor

AUGUST, 2009

Industry and International Notes

According to the International Air Transport Association, air cargo demand globally plunged 16.5% in June. This marked more than a year of declines. It was attributed to more supply chains looking to reduce costs and volumes

South Korea and India signed an ambitious free trade agreement in August to slash tariffs, encourage investment and promote exchange of skills. Officially called a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement their intent is to double fast growing commerce between two of Asia's biggest economies over the next decade

According to World Trade Organization (WTO) figures released in late August, China surpassed Germany as the world's number one exporter in the first half of 2009. From January through June of this year, China exported goods reportedly worth 521.7 billion in U.S. dollars (USD), narrowly edging out Germany who exported goods reportedly worth 521.6 Billion USD. Germany had been the world's largest exporter since 2003

According to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India in an August statement, India had 441.7

million cell phone users at the end of July, 2009. Data showed Indian mobile telephone operators added 14.38 million users in July, the fastest pace in four months in the world's quickest-growing wireless market. India is the second-largest mobile market in the world after China

According to China's Ministry of Commerce, direct investment in Africa rose 81% in the first half of 2009 compared with the same period in 2008. This level of investment was reported as 552 million in U.S. dollars (USD). On the other hand, trade between China and African countries, slumped 30.5% to 37.07 billion USD in first six months reportedly due to the global economic downturn

A twenty-year deal signed in August between the world's two largest energy companies will see ExxonMobil ship 60% of its LNG (liquefied natural gas) production from its proposed Western Australia plant to China and state-run PetroChina. The agreement reportedly will see PetroChina purchase 2.3 million tonnes of LNG per year

PetroChina International Investment Company Ltd. and Athabasca Oil Sands Corp., a privately owned oil sands company, have entered into principles of a joint venture agreement, pursuant to which

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PetroChina will acquire a 60% working interest in two oil sands projects. Athabasca Chair, Bill Gallacher, made the announcement in an August 31st press release

Suncor completed its acquisition of Petro Canada in August. In so doing, it created the largest energy producer in Canada. Suncor is the oldest, and second largest, oil sands producer

North West Territories Notes

According to the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC), NWT communities will be waiting for awhile longer to hear word on status of their applications for funding under the Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program (RInC). The program is part of Canada's economic stimulus initiative and designed to help pay for renovations, repairs and upgrades to recreation infrastructure. NWTAC reports that project funding decisions for the second, \$325 million phase of the program likely won't be made until this fall. According to them, in May, \$175 million was divided on a per capita basis, resulting in \$567,000 being set aside to be shared between the 3 territories. The NWT, however, received no funding through the first round

British Columbia Notes

Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Director, Wayne Hiebert, presented a cheque in the amount of \$1,090,750 to Pacific Northern Gas (PNG) in August as contribution to the Tomslake Rural Gasification project

PRRD contributed \$116,528.00 to Alberta Shock Trauma Rescue Society (STARS), supporting efforts to provide safe, rapid rotary critical care transport to ill and critically injured

Creation of the McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest Limited Partnership was announced in August. Jointly operated by the District of Mackenzie and the McLeod Lake Indian Band, the new community forest partnership has the right to harvest up to 30,000 cubic metres of timber per year on 24,218 hectares of public forest lands from five separate parcels just north of McLeod Lake in the Mackenzie timber supply area. Reportedly there are over 50 community forests either operating or in the planning stages in BC

The Prince Rupert Port Authority (PRPA) hosted a successful 51st Annual Association of Canadian Port Authorities (ACPA) Annual General Meeting and Conference in August. In connection with the three day event, Dr. Bill Hick, longtime promoter of the Port of Prince Rupert, received the Medal of Merit from the ACPA. Further details of Dr. Hick's accomplishments and on the prestigious award can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/kr5z3z>



Photo: Prince Rupert Port Authority

Dr. Bill Hick (centre), PRPA President & CEO, Don Krusel (right) & ACPA Chair, Gaetan Boivin (left)



In the August Throne Speech, the BC Government said they will pursue a new comprehensive Asia Pacific Gateway Authority with the federal government. They intend on redoubling efforts to “open up the critical northern corridor”

Federal Notes

Peace River MP, Chris Warkentin, on behalf of the Minister of State Western Economic Diversification announced, in August, funding toward enhancing La Crete, Alberta’s Mennonite Heritage Village. Also to be used for promoting new economic opportunities in the region, the federal funding component of \$53,240 comes through the Community Adjustment Fund (CAF); part of Canada's Economic Action Plan. NCDC member (and Alberta’s largest county), Mackenzie County, will provide \$20,000 and the La Crete Agricultural Society, \$10,268

Federal funding of \$3,996,585 was announced in August for five projects Throughout the Skeena-Bulkley Valley region ranging from the development of an industrial park, agricultural training and employment programs, to revitalizing areas affected by the mountain pine beetle. The funds are provided by Western Economic Diversification (WD), under the Community Economic Diversification Initiative (CEDI), a component of the federal Mountain Pine Beetle program. More information on the federal mountain pine beetle program can be found at: <http://mpb.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/> and information on Canada’s Economic Action Plan at: <http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/>

The federal government announced additional funding through Western Economic Diversification, of \$20 million from the Community Adjustment Fund (CAF) to the Northern Development Initiative

Trust (NDIT) for supporting additional projects in Northern British Columbian communities. This is on top of \$10 million originally invested through NDIT in 23 projects ranging from tourism infrastructure improvements to the expansion of a mobile poultry processor. To learn more about Northern Development Initiatives Trust, programs and funding, visit their website at: <http://www.nditrust.ca/>

Alberta Notes

With the release of the Province’s “2009-10 First Quarter Fiscal Update”, Alberta announced it will further reduce the cost of government in dealing with the larger-than-forecast deficit. The update indicated a deficit \$2.2 billion higher than forecast in Budget 2009, due mainly to weaker-than-forecast natural gas prices, a higher Canadian dollar as well as other declining revenue. The Province’s deficit is now forecast to be \$6.9 billion for 2009-10. Alberta has instituted a hiring freeze and is cutting “discretionary and low-priority spending” to reduce costs, specific details yet to be identified. In offsetting the higher-than-expected deficit, the Alberta Government will draw on the province’s \$17-billion Sustainability Fund. Provincial revenue in 2009-10 is forecast to be \$29.6 billion, a decrease of \$2.1 billion from budget, due mostly to lower royalties from natural gas and a \$532-million drop in personal income taxes. Total energy revenue is down \$2.1 billion from budget. Investment income, however, is forecast to increase \$760 million on better-than-expected equity markets. Provincial expenses are forecast to be \$72 million higher than budget, due mainly to increased disaster and emergency funding for fighting forest fires, municipal wildfire assistance and combating mountain pine beetles; and to higher capital grants, partially offset by federal transfers

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Yukon Notes

Yukon hosted China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) In August. The delegation included representatives from NDRC and from Chinese businesses looking for investment opportunities. NDRC oversees approval of all foreign investment by Chinese companies

Yukon Economic Development Minister Jim Kenyon and Deputy Minister Dr. Harvey Brooks were to promote Yukon economic opportunities and attend a key international summit while in China from August 31st to September 8th. Kenyon will represent Yukon at the 5th International Cooperation Summit. It is hosted by the Jilin Provincial People's Government of China

Manitoba Notes

Following closely on the heels of the Honourable Gary Doer's announcement in late August that he'll resign as Manitoba Premier, came an announcement he'll serve as Canada's next Ambassador to the US

Manitoba has a Community Festivals Support Program they started in 2003. In August, Manitoba announced this year they'll assist 43 community summer festivals through it. Manitoba's many unique community festivals are important attractions for tourists. The application deadline for assistance with winter community festivals is November 1st. For further program information, use the following convenient link: <http://tinyurl.com/l1lot7>

Saskatchewan Notes

Energy and Resources Minister Bill Boyd indicated, in late August, the final report on The Future of Uranium in Saskatchewan public consultation process is nearing completion. The report will be

released to the public as soon as possible after it is presented by mid-September to the provincial government and they've had a few weeks to consider the report's recommendations and the government's response to them

The Saskatchewan Government announced in August they will provide up to \$2.5 million to NorthWest Bio-Energy Ltd. Funding is through the Saskatchewan Biofuels Investment Opportunity (SaskBIO) program. NorthWest Bio-Energy Ltd. is a subsidiary of the farmer-owned, NorthWest Terminal, an inland grain facility. Located near Unity, the ethanol plant will reportedly produce 25 million litres of fuel per year from wheat. SaskBIO provides repayable contributions of up to \$10 million per project for construction or expansion of transportation biofuels production facilities in the Province. Applicants eligible for the program include corporations (including co-operatives), individuals and partnerships

NCDC Organizational Notes



Photo: Prince Rupert Port Authority

At the Association of Canadian Port Authorities Conference in Prince Rupert, NCDC's Gerard Aldridge (left) gratefully accepts PLATINUM Conference Sponsorship from Maynard Angus (right) of the Prince Rupert Port Authority



Editor's Note

NCDC Members - Production difficulties prevented the publication of this month's CORRIDOR CLOSE-UP. The next 5 issues, however, are spoken for, so contact Gerard Aldridge and get "In the Corridor queue" today

Thanks go out for all the sponsorship pledges received this past month for October's "One Mind, One Heart, One Corridor" – The 2009 Conference and AGM of the Northwest Corridor Development Corporation. Sponsors to date include:

PLATINUM – Prince Rupert Port Authority
 GOLD – City of Edmonton
 GOLD – Initiatives Prince George
 GOLD—Northern Sunrise County
 SILVER – Pacific Northern Gas Ltd.
 SILVER - Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines
 BRONZE – Town of Peace River

Thank you to the following organizations (each of whom received recognition on our twitter page too) for already renewing membership in NCDC for the 2009/2010 year, commencing September 1, 2009 and running until August 31, 2010:

Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia
 City of Edmonton
 City of Fort St. John
 City of Terrace
 Community Futures Development Corporation of the Pacific Northwest
 I.L.W.U. Canada
 North Peace Airport Society
 Northern Sunrise County
 Pacific Pilotage Authority
 Peace Region Economic Development Alliance (PREDA)
 Pacific Northern Gas Ltd.

Pommen and Associates Limited
 Prince Rupert Port Authority
 Prince Rupert Grain Ltd.
 Quickload CEF Inc.
 Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine
 Terrace Economic Development Authority (TEDA)
 Town of Grimshaw
 Town of Peace River

Our organization's Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in Prince George, BC, October 5 - 7, 2009. "One Mind, One Heart, One Corridor", will be a celebration and sharing of stories about People, Places, Partnerships, Pathways, Ports, Products, Policies, Programs, Projects and more.

The conference line-up includes (more yet to come):

Hovertrans Ltd. - Dan Turner

Airship Z-Prize – Jeff Ashcroft

Journalist/Author – Daniel Sekulich

Transport Canada – Monica Blaney

Prince Rupert Port Authority – Shaun Stevenson

Railway Association of Canada – Cliff Mackay

Initiatives Prince George – Tim McEwan and Kathie Scouten

Northern Development Initiatives Trust – Janine North

Pacific Northern Gas Ltd. – Ron Vanderlee

Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines – Roger Harris

Northern Gateway Alliance – Colin Kinsley

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Conference/AGM framework follows:

October 5th

Arrivals/registrations in the late afternoon with an evening reception and entertainment.

October 6th

A day-long conference including sessions on selected topics in the subject areas of transportation, trade, economic development and tourism in the Northwest Corridor of Canada, culminating with an evening banquet and entertainment.

October 7th

Resumption of conference sessions and AGM; ends before noon

All conference events and proceeding will take place at the Prince George Civic Centre, 808 Civic Plaza, Prince George, British Columbia, Canada

To register for the event, use the form included with this newsletter.

For more conference information and regular updates, visit NCDC's website at: www.nwcorridor.com

For further information on the Northwest Corridor Development Corporation, contact:

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