



“IN THE CORRIDOR”

March, 2009

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



Industry Notes

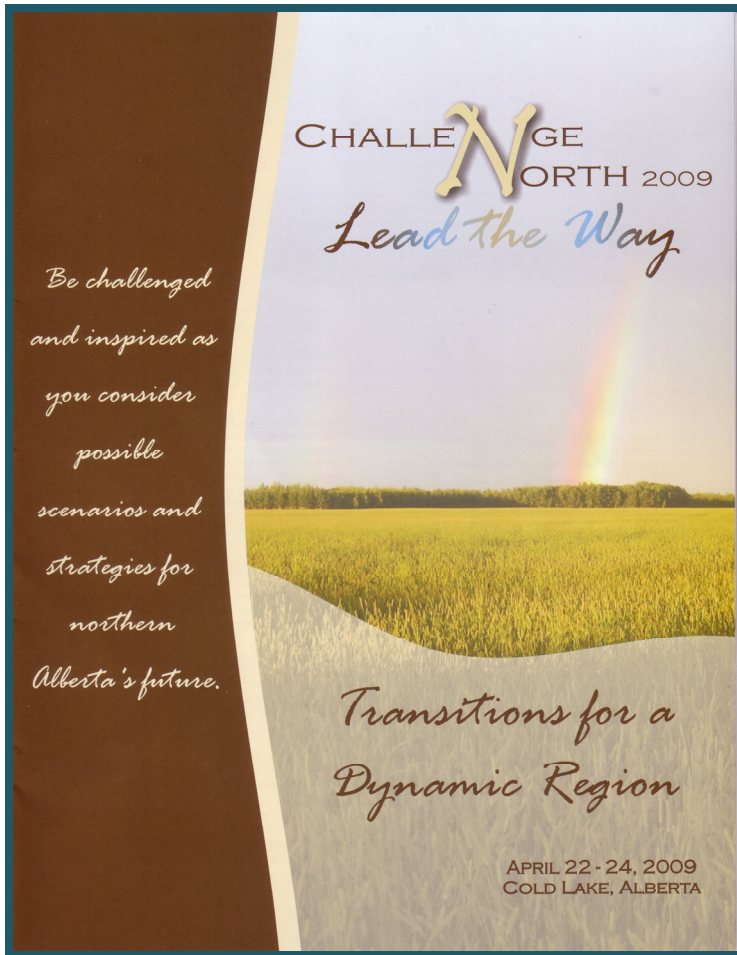
- NCDC member, Initiatives Prince George (IPG) www.initiativespg.com, completed and released, in March, a prospectus on the Prince George Global Logistics Park at the Prince George Airport. IPG will attend, prospectus in hand, on the China World Cargo Summit being held in early April in Shenzhen
- It was announced in March, that NCDC member, the Grande Alberta Economic Region (GAER), www.grandealberta.com, will receive \$562,500 in funding from Rural Alberta's Development Fund (RADF); www.ruralalbertasfund.com. Funding will assist in development of regional plans for economic diversification in response to negative impacts of the mountain pine beetle in the GAER
- Also announced by RADF in March, GeoTourism Canada, based out of Grimshaw, Alberta, www.geotourismcanada.com, will receive funding of \$1.575 million from RADF. This funding will continue development of northern tourism around their unique concepts involving geo sites. The Town of Grimshaw is a long time NCDC member; www.grimshaw.ca
- A 383-page March report by the United States Department of Energy (DoE) validates fuel saving claims about wide-base single tires on heavy trucks. The DoE test of the Michelin X One to standard dual tires, shows a 6% overall better fuel economy while as high as 10% improvement was realized on fully loaded tractor-trailers

- The Conference Board of Canada predicts Saskatchewan's economy to grow by 1.6 % in 2009; highest among provinces. This in comparison with a 0.5 % decrease in GDP they estimate for Canada
- The Kitimat, British Columbia smelter modernization project remains one of Rio Tinto Alcan's priorities. Rio Tinto Alcan is committed to using local contractors for much project-related work. An ocean vessel laden with over \$100 million in project-related equipment is expected to call on the Port of Kitimat in May. Site work will be undertaken in April, preparing an area for receiving and storing this project cargo. Seventeen smelter project-related bid packages will be going out in 2009
- Preliminary figures released by industry forecasters indicate that truck sales (Canada/USA/Mexico OEMs) are up in March by 26 % over February

North West Territories Notes

- Northwest Territories (NWT) Premier Floyd K. Roland welcomed renewed federal commitment to funding for the Aboriginal Pipeline Group (APG). Current APG partners include the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Gwich'in Development Corporation and the Sahtu Pipeline Trust. APG represents aboriginal interests in the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline (MGP)
- NWT Premier Floyd K. Roland, in response to a speech by federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lawrence Cannon, in Whitehorse, said, "Strong and sustainable communities ensure Canada's sovereignty over lands and resources. The time for significant investment is now." Members of the NWT Legislative Assembly were recently unanimous in urging the Government of Canada step forward with federal funding for a Mackenzie Valley Highway
- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) say a record level of capital investment will play a key role in stabilizing economic activity in the coming fiscal year. The GNWT will spend \$1.2 billion on operating expenditures and invest almost \$250 million in infrastructure

Alberta Notes



Alberta Premier, Ed Stelmach will provide a keynote address at the April conference in Cold Lake, Alberta

- Preparations continued for the NADC (Northern Alberta Development Council), Challenge North 2009 event. NADC is another valued member of the Northwest Corridor Development Corporation. Access details for the conference, occurring April 22 – 24 in Cold Lake, Alberta from: www.nadc.gov.ab.ca
- Another highly regarded member of NADC is WESTAC (Western Transportation Advisory Council). WESTAC posted an updated agenda for, and continued accepting registrations on, their upcoming Annual Meeting. Being held April 28 - 29 in Edmonton, Alberta, do not hesitate in accessing further information, including on registration: www.westac.com
- The Province, through the Alberta Energy Research Institute (AERI) will provide \$8.83 million in funding toward a deep underground coal gasification demonstration project in north-central Alberta; largest such world-wide

- The Government of Alberta introduced Bill 18, the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Statutes Amendments Act, 2009. An omnibus piece of legislation to amend 11 provincial Acts, it will ensure government statutes and the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) are consistent. As such, it's intended to allow for the full implementation of TILMA, Canada's most comprehensive inter-provincial trade agreement

Federal Notes

- Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, was prompted into saying, "Canada will not be bullied" with respect to Arctic sovereignty. This was in response to a Kremlin document released in March showing Russia plans on creating a special military force to protect its Arctic oil and gas interests. The Russian Ambassador to Canada, Georgyi Mamedov, suggested their plans have been misinterpreted and that Russia is not trying to make an Arctic power grab or bully anyone
- A funding contribution announced in March by the Honourable Rob Merrifield, Minister of State (Transport), the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Labour and Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Spruce Grove, and the Honourable Luke Ouellette, Alberta Minister of Transportation will see construction of a roadway interchange at Anthony Henday Drive SW (ring road) and Stony Plain Road in Edmonton, Alberta. Set to begin in April, cost of construction will be \$168.6 million and is scheduled to open by fall 2011

Manitoba Notes

- The Province introduced its 10th consecutive balanced budget in March. Their 2009/2010 budget projects a summary budget surplus of \$48 million. Investing in infrastructure, supporting economic stimulation and growth, it calls for capital investment totaling \$1.6 billion
- At their 77th Annual General Meeting held in March, the Manitoba Trucking Association (MTA) chose their 2009/2010 officers and executive committee members. Visit: www.trucking.mb.ca for association information



Photo source: D. Strid

A “passing” glimpse of March as seen from British Columbia’s Highway # 97, taken in the Pine Pass

Saskatchewan Notes

- Saskatchewan announced it's ready for its busiest construction season on record with 1,580 km of highway rehabilitation and maintenance projects in 2009. In support of economic growth, a number of multi-year projects are also to get underway. The Province's budget for 2009/2010, introduced in March, boosts transportation spending to \$630 million. This represents the largest transportation budget in their history
- In our corridor region, the Province will provide \$9.3 million in supporting infrastructure for development of a new industrial area at Yorkton, Saskatchewan, including two canola crushing plants. The development will include realignment of the Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway (Highway 16) and construction of a west truck route between it and Highway 52
- Concerns over cost, public interest and changing card requirements resulted in the Province announcing in March that it will not proceed with an Enhanced Driver's Licence (EDL) program
- \$19.7 million in funding was announced in March toward expanded development of Saskatchewan's Global Transportation Hub (GTH). The funding will go towards Stage I GTH roadwork. The transportation hub, west of Regina, Saskatchewan, ultimately will connect seamlessly to our Northwest Corridor by way of that Province's Highway 11

British Columbia Notes

- The Province announced \$187 million in funding over four years to upgrade the Sierra Yoyo Desan Road in north eastern BC. The Sierra Yoyo Desan Road, accessing the Horn River Basin, is a P3 partnership agreement
- The Working Roundtable on Forestry released its report and recommendations in March. Access a copy of their report at: www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/forestry_roundtable
- Several roads in the Quesnel area will undergo some repaving from May to September, as announced by Transportation and Infrastructure Minister, Kevin Falcon. Various sections will be repaved at a cost of \$2 million. It's part of an overall investment of \$30 million on provincial roads affected by harvest of mountain pine beetle affected timber

Yukon Notes

- At March's Arctic Gas Symposium, Premier Dennis Fentie called for a timely conclusion to regulatory decisions needed to advance the proposed MGP (Mackenzie Gas Pipeline). Fentie also told industry representatives there, Yukon is doing the necessary work to be pipeline-ready, related to preparations for the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline. For information on Yukon's oil and gas reserves look to: www.yukonoilandgas.com
- Yukon announced expansion of its investment attraction efforts for 2009/2010 to include Japan as well as China and Korea. See more information at: www.investyukon.com

NCDC Organizational Notes

- Starting with the next issue of "In the Corridor", each month NCDC will profile one of its member organizations, "In the Corridor". To facilitate this, member organizations, in good standing, are encouraged to draft approximately 1000 words about themselves which they'd like the rest of the Northwest Corridor, and the world, to know. Include two digital images and/or graphics. The intent is that it forms the basis of a two page insert to this newsletter. Submit the above to: aldridge@nwcorridor.com. Month by month selection will be made randomly. Your submission will remain on file month to month and, once drawn, we will request updates of it from you before publication
- NCDC appreciated the opportunity to participate with a Northwest Corridor presentation at a NorthLine Credit Unions' meeting held in Prince George, British Columbia in March. The NorthLine group of credit unions numbers seven. In turn, their community branches are spread throughout the corridor region of northern BC. Special thanks to Don Scott, Board Chair of the Northern Savings Credit Union (and Director, Richard Forssell) for the invitation
- The NCDC Board of Directors meets next on June 9th in Prince Rupert, British Columbia. As NCDC member organizations, what would you like to see on their agenda?
- A rate card has been established, and NCDC encourages investigation of sponsorships, for their upcoming conference and Annual General Meeting. Last year's conference, held in the Town of Peace River, Alberta, saw \$25,000 raised. In appreciation, our 2008 sponsors can still be viewed on our website. Incidentally, this year marks the 90th anniversary of the Town of Peace River, another one of our valued NCDC members. Visit their website at: www.peaceriver.net
- NCDC will be investigating with affected airports in the Northwest Corridor region, the potential ramifications of proposals contained in a NAV CANADA Aeronautical Study released in February. An NCDC response on your behalf depends on your critical feedback

Editor's Notes

- Congratulations to NCDC member, the City of Terrace, on winning the Kraft Hockeyville 2009 title. Terrace won out over more than 7,100 entries. As title holders, Terrace will host a NHL pre-season game this September between the Vancouver Canucks and New York Islanders as well as a CBC Hockey Night in Canada broadcast. The City of Terrace will also receive \$100,000 toward upgrades to their arena from Kraft Canada. Well done!
- Congratulations are also in order to NCDC members, the BCMEA and ILWU Local 514. Their negotiating teams were engaged in a lengthy and rigorous collective bargaining process, culminating in an agreement. The deal was fully ratified, in March, with an affirmative final vote count of the ILWU Local 514 membership. Hats off as well to federally appointed mediators, Lewis and Rooney for their efforts in assisting the two parties
- The next edition of "In the Corridor" marks the first anniversary of NCDC's monthly newsletter

Northwest Corridor



Development Corporation

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