



# In the Corridor

NOVEMBER, 2009

## Federal Notes

In early November, the federally appointed Rail Freight Service Review Panel, chaired by Walter Paszkowski, issued a call letter for submissions. More information on the Rail Freight Service Review's objectives and the submission process can be accessed by clicking on the following convenient web link:  
<http://tinyurl.com/yln3gu>

## Yukon Notes

Opportunities in Yukon's mineral sector were highlighted at the 37th annual Geoscience Forum and Mining Trade Show held in Whitehorse in November. Hosted by the Yukon Chamber of Mines with support from the Yukon government, it showcased Yukon's mineral industry and provided updates on Yukon's geological research. Featured at the event was [www.MiningYukon.com](http://www.MiningYukon.com) a recently developed web portal providing Yukon information ranging from geological data on mineral deposits to regulatory approval processes.

## Alberta Notes

Tolko Industries Ltd. announced in November, an indefinite closure of its High Level Lumber Division in High Level, Alberta. Sawmill operations were to continue until December 18<sup>th</sup> while the planer will continue to operate until mid-January when it will also shut down.

Alberta's Rural Development Fund (RADF) announced the lifting of a funding moratorium in November. With \$5.0 million remaining available for distribution, a final application deadline of January 15, 2010 has been set.

A Letter of Intent was signed in November between the Alberta government and Enhance Energy and North West Upgrading. It relates to constructing a 240-km carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) pipeline system. It will connect the province's Industrial Heartland near Fort Saskatchewan south with producing oil fields near Clive. The Alberta government will reportedly invest \$495 million over 15 years in the pipeline. Construction is scheduled to start in 2011 with pipeline operation by late 2012.

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## Industry and International Notes

Transitioning to a flight test phase in November, the aircraft manufacturer, Boeing, towed its first 747-8 Freighter out of its factory in Everett, Washington. The 747-8 Freighter is the new high-capacity 747 that will provide customers with 16 percent more revenue cargo volume compared to its predecessor, the 747-400 Freighter. Boeing reports this aircraft model will provide cargo operators the lowest operating costs and best economics of any freighter airplane. Boeing also reports the new model will provide enhanced environmental performance.

In November, Union Pacific Railroad began running double-stacked container trains over the Donner Pass in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. UP undertook a 12-month construction project to carve out bigger tunnel clearances, enlarging 15 tunnels and upgrading 30 miles of track to support rail customers connecting with Northern California and the Port of Oakland. Reportedly, using the Donner Pass for stack trains will cut shipment times compared with the route UP has been using and is 73 miles shorter. The improvements will enable UP to run 9,000-ft. trains on the Donner route, for a 58 percent increase from the current, 5,700-foot trains.

A report released in November by Global Construction Perspectives and Oxford Economics, predicts China will become the world's largest construction market by the year 2018,. At that time they will overtake the United States for top spot.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's international database, India will exceed China in population and rank as the world's largest country by number of consumers, by the mid 2040's.

In a historical first, six major U.S. West Coast ports and two western railroads came together to announce their collaboration at the World Shipping Summit in Qingdao, China in November. The group was comprised of the major container ports on the U.S. West Coast: Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, Oakland, Long Beach and Los Angeles. They joined forces with BNSF Railway Company and Union Pacific Railroad. The Collaboration showcased benefits of the West Coast as the premier region for trans-Pacific trade. They addressed leaders and customers of the maritime industry. This included ocean carriers, beneficial cargo owners and marine terminal and intermodal operators.



Source: CN

*Freight train en route near Fitzwilliam, BC*



## British Columbia Notes

The community of Kitimat and the Northwest Corridor region found itself facing a major challenge with the November announcement by West Fraser of the pending, permanent closure of its Eurocan paper mill. The closure, to take effect January 31, 2010, impacts 535 employees.

Following on February's official opening of the extended runway and September's completion of the re-fuelling pad at Prince George Airport, the airport recorded the arrival of the first wide-body freight aircraft for refuelling in November. It was a Boeing 747-200F Aircraft. The cargo jet is one operated by Southern Air Inc.

It was reported in November that a private Chinese company expressed interest in the former Pope & Talbot Mackenzie pulp mill from Worthington Mackenzie and had signed an MOU to formally investigate its purchase. Purchased by the Worthington Group in 2008 in a bankruptcy auction, the mill has not been in operation since last year.

Mourning came in November on the passing of Nelson Leeson, Nisga'a Lisims Government president.

Three Highway 16 improvement projects, totalling \$5.9 million, were announced by the federal and provincial governments in November. The projects, getting underway next construction season, are near Burns Lake, Fraser Lake and Prince George.

## Northwest Territories Notes

The NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC) made a presentation to the House of Commons Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development in Yellowknife. This committee is preparing a report for release in spring, 2010 addressing issues related to Northern Economic Development. For a copy of the NWTAC presentation click on the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/yj7wewy>

The NWT's regional Aboriginal Government leaders and representatives of the 16th Assembly, the NWTAC and the GNWT met in November. In the coming months, reportedly they will work in a spirit of mutual respect and recognition, to determine the nature and extent of their future intergovernmental relationships. They see it as necessary to identify and develop a political environment allowing their governments to work collectively, with one voice, in advancing the interests of the NWT and its residents.

The draft NWT Water Stewardship Strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in November. Co-ordinated meetings and engagement activities with Aboriginal governments and organizations, communities, industry, co-management boards, and other water partners on the draft are planned to March, 2010. The final version of the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy incorporating comments from the engagement process is scheduled to be released in summer, 2010 along with an implementation plan and any other supporting documents.

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## Saskatchewan Notes

With work on Phase I of the Yorkton West Truck Route already underway, the approved route for Phase II was announced in November by the provincial Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure. Phase 1 will see a portion of the existing Highway 16 moved south of its current alignment and realigning the Grain Miller Road access so to cross Highway 16 at right angles. Phase 2 of the Yorkton West Truck Route will see a new highway constructed from Highway 16 at the Grain Miller Road access to Highway 52. This will allow more trucks delivering to oilseed crushing facilities to avoid travelling through the City of Yorkton. Phase II construction is expected to commence in the 2010 construction season.

The sale of Weyerhaeuser's Carrot River Sawmill and Hudson Bay Plywood Mill to C & C Wood Products of Quesnel, BC, was concluded in November.

Saskatchewan hosted the winter meetings of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) in November. Taking place in Regina, the event consisted of a Legislative Academy and an Economic Leadership Forum. For some event presentations, click on:  
<http://tinyurl.com/yhc85p6>

## Manitoba Notes

In November, Manitoba became the first jurisdiction in Canada to mandate use of biodiesel; a 2 % biodiesel blend with diesel.

Changes to Manitoba's Cabinet in November saw the Honourable Steve Ashton become Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, replacing the Honourable Ron Lemieux who became Minister of Local Government.

Members of the mining community from around the world converged on Winnipeg, Manitoba in November for the annual Manitoba Mining and Minerals Convention. View abstracts from the event using this link: <http://tinyurl.com/yjkgd6v>

The Fourth Session of Manitoba's 39<sup>th</sup> Legislature got underway November 30<sup>th</sup>.

## NCDC Organizational Notes

NCDC's Board of Directors meets next in Victoria, BC on December 1, 2009. Included on the agenda is a presentation by Mr. Bruce Barrett of the BC Transmission Corporation regarding the Northwest Transmission Line (NTL).



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