



**Northwest Corridor  
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## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### NCDC recommendations to Federal Panel on Rail Freight Service

On rail freight service, the Northwest Corridor Development Corporation (NCDC) called today for improved communications practices, better accepted processes for commercial dispute resolution and rail line transference/discontinuance, as well as further public/private investment in rail infrastructure. NCDC made related recommendations public today in a report - their submission to the federal Rail Freight Service Review Panel.

NCDC's submission was made in connection with an ongoing rail freight service review process, initiated by the federal government after changes to the Canada Transportation Act received Royal Assent in 2008. The submission was made to a federally appointed three-person panel ultimately responsible for informing the federal Minister of Transport through a final report and recommendations on rail freight service later this year.

Carolyn Kolebaba is the Chair of NCDC. Kolebaba said their report with recommendations was made with the intent to facilitate market-based solutions and deregulation within the rail-based logistics chain, improve communications and accountability, and foster economic development and trade throughout the Northwest Corridor region.

Among the recommendations in NCDC's submission, they suggest the federal Review Panel refer the potential of public/private partnerships for improving rail freight service to Canada's First Ministers for further discussion, investigation, and action. NCDC recommended the reference include the Council of the Federation's potential renewed commitment to increasing rail business and capacity in their jurisdictions - a commitment that was made in writing in 2005. Kolebaba said a stronger commitment to strategic public/private partnerships could foster investment in rail infrastructure where it might not occur if left solely to a market-based approach. "It could also increase economic development and trade while alleviating regional disparity in rail freight service," she added.

NCDC is a federally incorporated not-for-profit organization, established April, 1998. Included in their membership are both private and public sector organizations from British Columbia, Alberta and the Northwest Territories. NCDC's membership includes railway, shippers, port, terminal and other public and private organizations interested in the region's progress. Working in unison as a public/private partnership of member organizations, NCDC advocates improvements to all modes of transportation, including rail, as well as to economic development, trade, and tourism infrastructure within, and connecting to, the Northwest Corridor.





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NCDC also expressed their appreciation for the Rail Freight Service Review process. Kolebaba maintains the large body of related research conducted, combined with consultations and final recommendations yet to come, has the potential to mark a turning point in improved rail freight service in Canada’s Northwest Corridor and Canada as a whole.

“NCDC’s submission was in keeping with their vision of connecting Canada with its global trading partners through Canada’s Northwest Corridor,” Kolebaba said. NCDC promotes Canada’s Northwest Corridor as North America’s seamless, high-velocity supply chain connection to the Asia-Pacific Gateway. Kolebaba added, “It’s important through this review that we find ways for everyone along the corridor to benefit through improving rail freight service on an ongoing basis.”

**For further information contact:**

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Background – A complete copy of the submission can be downloaded by visiting: [www.nwcorridor.com](http://www.nwcorridor.com)

