



Northwest Corridor
Development Corporation
P.O. Box 1414, Grande Prairie, AB Canada T8V 4Z2
Tel: 780.567.4991 | Fax : 780.494.2529 | Email: aldridge@nwcorridor.com

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2009

Canada's Northwest Corridor becoming the Corridor of Choice

Well before the official launch of Canada's Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative in 2006, the Northwest Corridor Development Corporation (NCDC) professed the vital importance of the northern transportation corridor to Canada's Asia-Pacific trade. NCDC has continually touted the Northwest Corridor's modern, uncongested network of highways, railways, airports and marine, as well as inland, port facilities.

The organization's Executive Director, Gerard Aldridge claims, these days, more are standing up and taking note than ever before. Aldridge said since startup of container traffic through the Port of Prince Rupert, the corridor's importance in supply chain management has grown. "When it comes to Canada's Asia Pacific Gateway, the Northwest Corridor is its seamless, high-velocity, supply chain connection", Aldridge said.

Aldridge used the occasion of the Association of Canadian Port Authorities (ACPA) Annual General Meeting/Conference in Prince Rupert, British Columbia, to highlight the corridor's attributes. This year, Prince Rupert Port Authority (PRPA) is host of the ACPA event. NCDC considers it key to future success to maintain impetus for proposed expansion of container terminal operations at the Port of Prince Rupert.

The proposed Fairview Container Terminal, Phase II expansion is estimated for completion in early 2014, with capacity of 2 million or more containers expressed as twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU's). Aldridge said it takes foresight by all involved, when forging ahead in the face of the current down turn in container handlings in many ports worldwide. But, Aldridge mentioned how the Port of Prince Rupert has bucked this global trend with much higher container handlings; 124% in the first half of 2009 over the same period in 2008. As the reason for their success in a global downturn otherwise, Aldridge said, "The Port of Prince Rupert has well demonstrated its inherent supply chain value."

NCDC's Executive Director said, "From the corridor's perspective, we've shared the impact of global economic challenges. But at the same time it has and will continue to create opportunities for the Northwest Corridor in Canada." Aldridge maintains in today's environment, organizations have or are considering shortening their extended supply chains as potential help. Aldridge said, "Our transportation corridor's supply chain appeal comes to the fore, being the shortest land-sea link with Asia."

Aldridge added that a greater share of infrastructure invested dollars by federal and provincial governments is required to be expended throughout the northwest's multi-modal transportation corridor. "Special emphasis is needed on north-south as well as east-west connections to the Northwest Corridor" he said, adding, "In a region still rich in natural resources, this will only return reward."

- 30 -

For further information contact:

Gerard Aldridge, NCDC Executive Director – Tel: 780-567-4991 Email: aldridge@nwcorridor.com

