



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](mailto:aldridge@nwcorridor.com)

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 23, 2009

### NCDC Announces Roster filled for this year's Conference

“The cast of characters is set”, said Gerard Aldridge, Executive Director of the Northwest Corridor Development Corporation (NCDC). Aldridge announced that NCDC has rounded out the slate of speakers participating in “One Mind, One Heart, One Corridor”, their upcoming Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM). The event, taking place October 5 – 7, 2009 at the Civic Centre in Prince George, British Columbia, is being billed as a celebration and sharing of stories of People, Places, Partnerships, Pathways, Ports, Products, Policies, Programs, Projects and more.

Included in the conference's cast is Daniel Sekulich. The award winning film maker and journalist will talk about his recent investigations into the world of piracy and maritime crime and its implications for the transportation sector. An expert on the resurgence of piracy today, Sekulich will offer insights into what has become a multinational, multibillion-dollar enterprise affecting millions of people around the world. Piracy poses the risks of economic chaos, environmental disaster, and, impacts transnational security. Aldridge said that Sekulich will also provide a reading from his new book, *Terror on the Seas: True Tales of Modern-Day Pirates*, followed by book signings at the conference's reception on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Also in the conference line up is Dan Turner. Turner is the Managing and Technical Director of UK based, Hovertrans Ltd. He will talk on transporting of heavy loads or modules in remote environments using custom built hover barges. Aldridge said that Dan Turner is the only engineer to have been involved in this industry from the beginning, operating commercial hover barges from the Middle East to North America. He'll include the story of their next generation range of Hoverbarges with payloads of over 2,500 tonnes.

Jeff Ashcroft, the founder of Airship Z-Prize, will also make a conference appearance. Ashcroft will talk about cargo airships and their future/potential applications in various remote environments, including the Arctic. Aldridge said technological changes of the last hundred years have proponents like Ashcroft saying the economic tipping point is in sight and air cargo ships are inevitable. Ashcroft will tell of the race currently on for a dominant design as over sixteen teams work on airships in over eight different countries.

Aldridge also announced the Fairview Agricultural Society, from northwest Alberta, will be a 2009 SILVER Conference Sponsor, as they were in 2008. Aldridge said, “The Fairview Agricultural Society recognizes potential agricultural elements in conference presentations from the Prince Rupert Port Authority and the Railway Association of Canada.”

The event gets underway with an evening reception and opening ceremonies on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Day-long conference sessions on Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> will culminate with an evening banquet. A resumption of conference sessions and NCDC's Annual General Meeting occur Wednesday morning, October 7<sup>th</sup> with all wrapping up by noon. Aldridge said the conference is open to both members and non-members alike. More details are posted on NCDC's website: [www.nwcorridor.com](http://www.nwcorridor.com) where a fill-able form can be downloaded for registration.

Aldridge anticipates a good turnout for the non-profit group's conference as the northern corridor is increasingly the corridor of choice and more people and organizations want to investigate it. Aldridge said, “Canada's Northwest Corridor is North America's seamless, high-velocity supply chain connection to the Asia-Pacific Gateway.”

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#### For further information contact:

Gerard Aldridge, NCDC Executive Director – Tel: 780-567-4991 Email: [aldridge@nwcorridor.com](mailto:aldridge@nwcorridor.com)

