



## “IN THE CORRIDOR

August, 2008

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



### Alberta Notes

- Construction started in August on a modern roundabout in the Town of Peace River. When completed for traffic by the end of October, it will replace the previous five-way stop at the intersection of Highway 744, 100<sup>th</sup> Street and 96<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Those attending the NCDC Conference and Annual General meeting in Peace River, October 7 to 9<sup>th</sup> will see the project firsthand as they make their way to and from the Belle Petroleum Centre

### Manitoba Notes

- Science, Technology, Energy and Mines Minister Jim Rondeau announced a new province wide geothermal program designed to reduce greenhouse gases and help Manitobans cope with rising energy costs. The Manitoba Geothermal Energy Alliance will work with Manitobans in assessing geothermal options for their specific needs, providing accredited installers and accessing various provincial, federal and Manitoba Hydro incentives. For more information, visit [www.mgea.ca](http://www.mgea.ca)
- A new national report card from the Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance (CEEA) gave Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro the highest ranking in the country for their commitment to energy efficiency. The CEEA gave Manitoba an A-plus in its seventh national report card on energy efficiency; Manitoba's A-plus ranking was the highest in the country, tied with British Columbia

### British Columbia Notes

- An August sale of oil and gas rights brought in \$543 million in bonus bids, adding to a year-to-date record total of more than \$1.8 billion. Key sale parcels were near Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson and Fort St. John. With so much related activity to unfold in northeastern BC, the stage is set for an exciting Horn River Basin Economic Development Symposium taking place in Fort Nelson in early September
- A three-year research grant program to determine better ways to deal with the woody debris from logging and land development was announced by the BC Ministries of Environment and of Forests and Range. Funding allocated through it flows from the \$28.5 million BC Clean Air Action Plan. Co-ordination will come from FPInnovations' Feric Division, a non-profit research and development organization promoting sustainable development of forestry operations
- Forests and Range Minister, Pat Bell, inspected progress this month at the site of Bobtail Forest Service Road overpass construction on Highway 16 west of Prince George. With 14,000 trucks a year crossing Highway 16 at this location, the overpass should vastly improve on safety of truck drivers and the travelling public alike. With cooperation from the weather, the \$5.2 million construction project is scheduled for completion in October



Source: BC Ministry of Forests and Range  
Forests and Range Minister, Pat Bell, visits the \$5.2-million  
Bobtail Forest Service Road overpass construction project on  
Highway 16 near Bednesti Lake

## Saskatchewan Notes

- The second highest single sale of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights, ever, raised \$242.7 million in revenue for the Province of Saskatchewan in August. Included in this were parcels in the northwest corridor region. Year-to-date land sale revenues are now a record \$848.1 million. There are still two more sales to occur in 2008. The next sale of Crown petroleum and natural gas dispositions on October 6, 2008 will also have oil sands exploration licences on offer
- The Northwest Corridor region continues to benefit from the largest Highways Budget in Saskatchewan's history. Evidence this month, an \$11.4 million Highway 16 twinning project underway through the City of Lloydminster. Through the Province's Urban Highway Connector Program, a 1.6 kilometre section of single-lane highway along 44th Street will be twinned. Including this project scheduled for completion in October, over \$50 million is being spent on the provincial and municipal road network in west central Saskatchewan. With respect to the 75% (Province)/25% (City) funding agreement that allowed the project to go ahead, Lloydminster Mayor, Ken Baker, was reported as saying, "As Canada's only border city on the boundary of Alberta and Saskatchewan, we are the main commerce centre between Edmonton and Saskatoon. When you add to that our growing heavy oil industry, the need to twin this important urban connector is obvious."
- Metakaolin is a product which is able to replace up to 20 per cent of the cement required in making concrete. Highways and Infrastructure Minister, Wayne Elhard, announced it will be approved for use in the province. The process of making metakaolin creates 55 per cent less greenhouse gas emissions than conventional cement. Combine this with other positive properties such as faster setting, less permeability and a stronger end product makes it a highly desirable additive to cement. It could find favour with concrete producers and the heavy construction industry throughout North America. Metakaolin will be produced by Whitemud Resources at a facility officially opened this month near Assiniboia

## Industry Notes

- Preliminary engineering, feasibility and construction pre-work activity continued this month on Rio Tinto Alcan's planned Kitimat Modernization Project in the Province of British Columbia. This on the heels of Rio Tinto's recent announcement awarding a contract to Bechtel, worth approximately US\$200 million. Bechtel is to conduct complete engineering, procurement and construction management of the project which is reportedly estimated at approximately US\$2.5 billion. The project will upgrade Rio Tinto Alcan's existing 54-year old smelter. The first metal from the modernized smelter is expected in 2011. Aluminum production capacity is to increase by 125,000 tonnes to a total capacity of 400,000 tonnes per year. Once complete, the state-of-the-art plant with leading-edge technology will use hydroelectric power from Rio Tinto Alcan's Kemano power station. It is also to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 40 per cent per year. Final Rio Tinto Board approval is expected before end of fourth quarter this year
- The future development of an air logistics park adjacent to the Prince George Airport became possible this month with an Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) decision allowing removal of 688 hectares of land from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). The logistics park will build on opportunities at the Prince George Airport. An expanded 11,500 foot airport runway will allow trans-pacific cargo aircraft to refuel in Prince George and take on regional cargo for international distribution
- Liquid natural gas (LNG) fuel systems developed by Westport Innovations Inc. of Vancouver, BC went into use in new trucks at Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Trucks using this technology were also ordered this month for use at the Port of Oakland. The transport trucks equipped with Westport's high pressure direct injection (HPDI) technology use 5% diesel and 95% natural gas to power their drivetrains. Running on clean, low-carbon LNG fuel, greenhouse gas emission reductions of around 20% and nitrogen oxide emissions reductions of over 75% can be achieved in comparison to conventional diesel powered vehicles they replace

## NCDC Organizational Notes

- NCDC requested Transport Canada not remove designation security status from airports in the Northwest Corridor region such as Dawson Creek, Williams Lake and Quesnel. Such status relates to government-provided Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) security screening
- NCDC, along with the City of Prince George, Initiatives Prince George, and the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP) jointly announced entering into a strategic cooperation agreement. Its purpose, promoting the Northwest Corridor for logistics, manufacturing, processing and trade. NCDC Chair, Don Zurowski, said "By aggregating our trade and transportation messaging capabilities, we can be much more effective marketing in China." NCDC considers this a regional initiative and credits its member organizations for involvement
- Welcome to new members this month, Pommen Group of Sherwood Park, Alberta; General Management Consultants [www.pommen.com](http://www.pommen.com)
- NCDC membership renewal notices were mailed out late this month for the 2008/2009 membership year running from September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009. The NCDC Annual General Meeting (AGM) takes place, Thursday, October 9, 2008 at Peace River, Alberta. AGM notices were also mailed to NCDC membership this month

## Yukon Notes

- Yukon Premier, Dennis Fentie, congratulated Alaska Governor Sarah Palin this month as the State's legislators voted 14-5 in favour of issuing a license to TransCanada Pipelines under the Alaskan Gasline Inducement Act (AGIA). TransCanada Pipelines will now conduct further work towards fine tuning costs of the proposed pipeline and secure gas supply commitments from North Slope producers. This will reportedly take 18 to 20 months. A decision by TransCanada Pipelines will follow, whether or not to make application to Canadian and US regulators and proceed with construction

## Federal Notes

- A Transport Canada Synthesis Report released this month attempts to establish total transportation related costs incurred in Canada. You can access the report from: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/aca/fci/menu.htm>. All things considered, it suggests total transportation related cost for the year 2000 of between \$198 and \$233 billion. The report has its critics, such as the Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA) who question its use for policy development

## North West Territories Notes

- The governments of the Northwest Territories and Canada commemorated completed safety improvements at Yellowknife and Norman Wells Airports in August. Federal funding came from the Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP). In four years over \$5 million was provided for runway rehabilitation and new drainage channels at Yellowknife Airport while \$7 million was provided for airside pavement rehabilitation at the Norman Wells Airport

**Northwest Corridor**



**Development Corporation**

**Register now to attend the October 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Conference, "Take Ten in the Corridor" by visiting [www.nwcorridor.com](http://www.nwcorridor.com)**

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