



## North West Territories Notes

- Bison on the Yellowknife and Fort Smith Highways (Highways 3 & 5) as well as the Liard Trail (Highway 7) prompted the Department of Transportation to issue advisories in October. In particular, bison were present in very large numbers on Highway 3 between Km 250 and Km 190 and collisions resulted
- In October, the portion of the Louis Cardinal ferry's route providing service to the town of Tsiighetchic was first to end ferry service for the season due to ice conditions. Notice followed on remainder of the Louis Cardinal Ferry's operations. The Louis Cardinal crosses the Arctic Red River on the Dempster Highway (Highway 8). Ferry service over the Peel River near Fort McPherson (Abraham Francis) closed for the season by late October as well. The ten year average closing date for the Louis Cardinal and Abraham Francis ferries is October 24. Other Northwest Territories (NWT) ferries on Highway 1 (Johnny Berens and Lafferty) were day to day and Highway 3 (Merv Hardie) remained operating normally. The 10 year average closing date for the Johnny Berens is October 30, for the Lafferty is November 4, and for the Merv Hardie is January 20. Up-to-date information on the status of NWT public highways and ferry crossings is available on the department's toll-free line at 1-800-661-0750 and on its website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca)

## Alberta Notes

- Alberta announced this month, three test wells will soon be drilled for a ground-breaking, long-term, large-volume CO2 sequestration project. The Province, through the Alberta Energy Research Institute (AERI), is providing \$6.6 million in funding for the three-year, \$20-million project near Shell Canada's Scotford facility. Information derived through testing will support Alberta's Climate Change Strategy, being the CO2 injection capability and storage capacity in formations deep beneath the surface. Testing is expected to be completed by June 2010 and will expand the knowledge base of the geologic formations in Alberta best suited for carbon sequestration. The funding is separate from the Province of Alberta's \$2 billion carbon capture and sequestration fund, which will support 3-5 commercial-scale projects that will reduce carbon emissions in the province by up to five million tonnes annually by 2015
- Originally scheduled to continue only to October 31<sup>st</sup>, repairs to the Dunvegan Bridge, north of Grande Prairie were extended to December 12<sup>th</sup>. Now working 24 hours a day, all efforts are to complete work and re-establish two-way traffic as soon as possible. Alberta Transportation is replacing the concrete deck on the Dunvegan Bridge at a cost of \$17.8 million. Non-essential work will be deferred to next year; resuming in spring and continuing until fall, 2009
- The First Session of the Twenty-First Alberta Legislature resumed on October 14<sup>th</sup>

## Federal Notes

- The federal election this month produced another Conservative minority government. Following upon this month's election, a new Federal Cabinet was announced. Some appointments include:
  - John Baird – Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
  - Stockwell Day – Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway
  - Lynne Yelich – Minister of State (Western Economic Diversification)
  - Rob Merrifield – Minister of State (Transport)

## Saskatchewan Notes

- The Province of Saskatchewan continues to pay attention to its strategic corridor linkages with more twinning of Highway 11 opened to traffic in October. Part of a major commercial route between Saskatoon and Prince Albert, Highways and Infrastructure Minister Wayne Elhard said "I am very pleased to see such progress on this important north-south corridor" adding, "Ensuring the smooth flow of traffic not only enhances trade, commerce and tourism, but it improves our competitiveness in the world market." In total, the province is investing \$39.7 million in Highway 11 twinning this year between Saskatoon and Prince Albert, one of Saskatchewan's strategic gateway corridors. "Thousands of heavy commercial trucks are funneled through Prince Albert on a daily basis serving the needs of northern Saskatchewan's mining and exploration industries," Elhard said. "Improving this important gateway will not only make travel safer and far more efficient for commercial traffic, but it will also enhance the drive for the many tourists who head north each year to take advantage of our northern lakes." The government's long-range goal is to work toward completion of twinning along the entire Highway 11 corridor from Saskatoon to Prince Albert. "This will help better connect central and northern Saskatchewan shippers to international trade routes," Elhard said. The province is looking at a number of funding options in addressing further twinning of Highway 11. This includes potential of accessing federal dollars under the Building Canada Fund
- In preparation for the first phase of work for the 2009 highway construction season, the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure issued \$168.6 million in tenders in October. Minister Elhard said it continues this year's momentum and also allows for better long-term planning on the part of the road building industry and the communities and businesses served by the corridors that will be improved
- October's Crown petroleum and natural gas dispositions sale put the Province over the \$1 billion mark for the first time ever for annual revenues with yet another sale to come in December
- The Second Session of the Twenty-Sixth Legislature in Saskatchewan got underway with the Speech from the Throne, October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Through Enterprise and Innovation Minister, Lyle Stewart and Crown Corporations Minister, Ken Cheveldayoff, the Province announced establishment of a new, 12 person, Uranium Development Partnership this month. Mandated to identify, evaluate and make recommendations on Saskatchewan based, value added opportunities in the uranium industry, the new partnership will advise on further development of the province's uranium resources. Including representatives from the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan, urban and rural municipalities, business, labour, First Nations, the environmental community and Canada's nuclear industry, it will provide a final report to government by March 31, 2009. The report is to include specific recommendations on value added opportunities best suited to development of the uranium industry. The partnership report will be released to the public and form the basis for public consultation. The Uranium Development Partnership will identify: challenges to development; investment requirements and timelines; legislative and/or regulatory conditions required to move forward; research and development opportunities; labour force requirements; and education and training capacity
- Saskatchewan's Municipal Affairs Minister, Bill Hutchinson, announced renewal of the Province's Northern Capital Grants Program this month. The province will invest \$7.2 million in the next six years towards meeting local infrastructure needs. The program provides funding for municipal capital works, new equipment, facilities, capital planning, major structural renovations or repairs significantly increasing useful life of buildings, and equipment or renovations increasing the energy efficiency of buildings or equipment. Municipalities are responsible to pay an amount equal to 10 per cent of the approved amount of the Northern Capital Grant. Communities will be allocated money based on their population levels. They can spend up to 20 percent of their Northern Capital Grants on capital supporting or enhancing economic development in the community

## Industry Notes

- The Prince Rupert Port Authority this month reported the Port's best cruise season ever. The Port welcomed a record 103,635 passengers on 63 cruise ships this year. A further success reported was shore excursion tours by passengers were up 21 percent over a year ago. Total impact of the cruise industry on Prince Rupert is estimated at over \$10 million for 2008
- Northern Development Initiatives Trust launched a new Capital Investment and Training Rebate Program. The program offers eligible businesses in the wealth-creating, export-driven sectors of the economy, up to \$10,000 per two or more jobs created in Central or Northern BC. Northern Development hopes by 2012 to have been instrumental in creating at least 3,000 new jobs under the program. Further information can be found at: <http://northerndevelopment.bc.ca/business-incentives/capital-investment-and-training-rebate>
- The time has come for meaningful and open discussion about refining capacity in this country says David Bradley, President and CEO of the Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA). Bradley provided a commentary this month in response to the scenario taking place in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba where a severe shortage of truck diesel fuel played havoc with truckers throughout. Carriers were seeing their fuel supplies rationed by as much as 10 to 50 percent during the month. The trucking industry was told things might not return to normal supply, perhaps through November. Diesel fuel shortages were said, by oil companies, to be the result of both planned and unplanned refinery outages in the region. The CTA says the trucking industry is the largest consumer of diesel fuel in Canada with annual consumption of truck diesel fuel by tractor-trailer units alone, coming to about 7 billion litres. CTA's Bradley further commented how trucks haul 90 percent of all consumer products and foodstuffs as well as two-thirds by value of Canada-US trade. He added, having a stable, sufficient and predictable supply of truck-grade diesel fuel is not only essential for the trucking industry, it is vital to the well-being of Canada.
- Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. reported 2008 third-quarter earnings of \$1.24 billion. This not only represented a five-fold increase over earnings in the same period for 2007 but also exceeded earnings for full-year, 2007. Significantly higher prices for all their potash, nitrogen and phosphate products was cited by company officials for the large growth in earnings
- The Prince George Airport Authority (PGAA) was named Newsmaker of the Year at the 2008 Prince George Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards this month. The Prince George Airport Authority's Runway Expansion Project beat out the City of Prince George Ice Jam, and the Charles Jago Northern Sports Centre in earning top honours
- Rio Tinto announced this month it will invest an additional US\$300 million in the modernization of its aluminum smelter at Kitimat, BC. This brings current project funding to over US\$500 million in total. Officials said the investment will continue construction and maintain "critical paths" for the project, while seeking opportunities to reduce capital costs. This stage of funding will secure launch of an anode baking furnace, substation, casthouse, and construction workers' camp, as well as ancillary services



Photo: Tourism Kitimat

*Aerial view of Kitimat, British Columbia*

## Manitoba Notes

- Bill 47, The CentrePort Canada Act, received Royal Assent and came into force this month. It created a private-sector focused corporation to develop/promote Manitoba's inland port and well-established transportation networks
- Manitoba has filed a notice of application in the Court of Queen's Bench seeking a declaration that Air Canada's decision to close the Winnipeg flight attendant base is in breach of the federal Air Canada Public Participation Act; an Act they say requires the corporation maintain operational and overhaul centres in Winnipeg. The Province maintains Air Canada's decision to close the flight attendant base is inconsistent with the federal legislation. They want the Court of Queen's Bench to clarify the legal authority under which the flight attendant base is being closed. They say, when the federal government privatized Air Canada in 1988, Manitobans were assured jobs, including those of flight attendants, would be maintained in Winnipeg. Relying on the wording of the legislation, the Province points specifically to section 6(1) (d) of the Air Canada Public Participation Act, requiring, "the Corporation to maintain operational and overhaul centres in the City of Winnipeg, the Montreal Urban Community and the City of Mississauga."

## Yukon Notes

- The final stage of the Lewes River Bridge rehabilitation project was completed in October. Taking place over summer and fall, it was done ahead of schedule. Work included replacement of the bridge deck; steel structural work, new bearings as well as painting the bridge's floor beams and stringers
- The Yukon Government announced this month, a further investment of \$500,000 in Destination Yukon. This is a comprehensive marketing campaign first launched in early 2008. The campaign was designed to increase awareness of Yukon as a travel destination, motivating travelers to choose it for their next vacation. The additional funds will be used in a fall campaign promoting winter experiences and a spring, 2009 campaign promoting summer travel to the Yukon

- Yukon Legislature reconvened in October, considering a supplementary budget and other legislative bills
- The Yukon government intends lowering its carbon footprint by increasing its hydroelectric power generating capacity. An announcement this month included a proposal to partner with the federal government, First Nations and private sector in completing Phase 2 of the Carmacks-Stewart transmission line, connecting it with the Mayo-Dawson transmission line. Also proposed is a project upgrading the Mayo Dam, referred to as Mayo B. The Yukon Government says this will lower dependence on diesel fuel and ultimately reduce CO2 emissions by up to 28,000 metric tonnes annually. This while increasing yearly hydroelectric capacity by an additional 40GWH

## British Columbia Notes

- Following upon a program expansion announcement made at the Union of BC Municipalities conference in September, the BC Government continued encouraging Regional Districts to apply for infrastructure funding under the expanded \$71 million Towns for Tomorrow program. BC's Community Development Minister, Blair Lekstrom, said, "The new Towns for Tomorrow program is helping to bridge the rural-urban divide by providing much-needed support to smaller communities with limited resources across British Columbia." Lekstrom said Regional Districts can now make application for a project within their jurisdiction for an electoral area or unincorporated community with up to 15,000 residents, allowing them to take advantage of this vital funding opportunity along with other small municipalities. Towns for Tomorrow provides between 75 and 80 percent of project costs, with a maximum provincial contribution of \$400,000 for communities with fewer than 5,000 people and \$375,000 for communities of 5,000 to 15,000. The funding is intended to support development or improvement of local infrastructure. Eligible projects include those related to water quality, public transit, wastewater, environmental energy improvements, local roads, recreation, culture, tourism, protective and emergency services infrastructure and community development



Created by: ABC Communications

*What are your thoughts on the web image above?*

## NCDC Organizational Notes

- NCDC staged a successful Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October. Appointed to the Board of Directors at the AGM for the 2008/2009 year:
  - Mr. Maynard Angus, Prince Rupert Port Authority
  - Mr. Laurie Brown, Northwest Regional Airport-Kitimat/Terrace
  - Mr. Jeff Burghardt, Prince Rupert Grain Ltd.
  - Ms. Marylin Davies, City of Terrace
  - Mr. Kevin Dobbin, Rio-Tinto Alcan
  - Mr. Jim Eglinski, City of Fort St. John
  - Mr. Jim Feeny, CN
  - Mr. Berry Heinen, Town of Peace River
  - Mr. Charles Johnson, Clear Hills County
  - Ms. Carolyn Kolebaba, Northern Sunrise County
  - Mr. Tim McEwan, Initiatives Prince George
  - Mr. George Schmidt, Town of High Level
  - Mr. Ron Vanderlee, Pacific Northern Gas Ltd.
  - Mr. Don Zurowski, City of Prince George



Photo: G. Aldridge

*Attentive listeners to a mix of corridor-related topics; "Take Ten in the Corridor", NCDC's Conference and AGM was held in Peace River, Alberta*

- Thanks for bearing with us as we work towards a renovation of our website. Regardless of how web renovations are achieved, there are associated costs, whether simply updating existing information or exchanging entire sections in favour of new. In connection with this renovation, what are your thoughts on potential web imagery in the upper left hand of the column opposite? Think of it both in terms of colour scheme and messaging from a web identity point of view. Email your comments and suggestions to: [aldridge@nwcorridor.com](mailto:aldridge@nwcorridor.com)
- Many thanks to all the following organizations for renewing their NCDC membership for 2008/2009 this month:
  - Alberta Forest Products Shippers Association
  - CFDC Nadina
  - Clear Hills County
  - County of Grande Prairie
  - International Longshore and Warehouse Union – Canada (ILWU - Canada)
  - Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC)
  - North Peace Airport

**Northwest Corridor**

**Development Corporation**

**For a membership or your transportation, trade or tourism inquiries, get "In the Corridor" today!**

**Visit [www.nwcorridor.com](http://www.nwcorridor.com) or contact :**

**The Northwest Corridor Development Corporation  
P.O. Box 1414, Grande Prairie,  
Alberta, Canada T8V 4Z2**

<p><b>Executive Director:</b></p> <p>Gerard Aldridge Telephone (Primary): 780.567.4991 Tel/Fax (Alternate): 780.494.2529 Email: <a href="mailto:aldridge@nwcorridor.com">aldridge@nwcorridor.com</a></p>	<p><b>Board Chair:</b></p> <p>Don Zurowski Telephone (Primary): 780.567.4991 Tel (Alternate): 250.613.5622 Email: <a href="mailto:don@zurowski.bc.ca">don@zurowski.bc.ca</a></p>
--	--