

Industry Notes

- Further bargaining in January did not produce a settlement between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 514 and the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA). Federally appointed mediators have scheduled the next talks between the two for February 12/13th
- Citing a number of federal budget details of interest to the Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA), David Bradley, their CEO, said “These are extremely difficult times, the toughest the trucking industry has seen and our industry is as good a bellwether of economic activity as there is,” Bradley added, “Time will tell how effective this budget will be in helping to get things going again.”
- A new low-emission locomotive, purchased by Viterra Inc. with assistance from Transport Canada’s Freight Technology Incentives Program, was unveiled in Vancouver this month. The new locomotive is powerful enough to pull 28 loaded grain cars at a time using only one of its two high-speed diesel engines and generators. As such it will reduce the number of trips needed to completely unload a shipment at the company’s Pacific grain terminal; improving logistical efficiency while reducing green house gas emissions
- Director of Export Market Development for Initiatives Prince George, Mr. Wei Liu, announced an exporting workshop in Prince George in February (see notice in this issue)

Saskatchewan Notes

- Through the provincially-funded Primary Weight Corridors (PWC) program, it was announced that 19 rural municipalities were approved for \$4 million in capital construction funding (2009-2010 construction season). The program monies will upgrade 112.1 kilometers (km) of roads while another \$6 million will be used for ongoing maintenance. Developing a PWC network was identified in a strategic initiative launched by both the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) and their urban counterpart (SUMA). Called, Clearing the Path, more details on it and PWC can be found at: www.clearingthepath.ca

Federal Notes

- The Second Session of the 40th Parliament of Canada opened in late January with the Throne Speech followed, the next day, by the presentation of the federal budget. Opposition Liberals said they have placed the minority Conservative government “On probation” and will not be defeating them on it. Instead they will propose through budget amendment, a series of accountability reports of government as to progress on budget implementation. A potential coalition government between opposition parties was no longer being considered. Access budget documents from the Department of Finance Canada website: <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2009/home-accueil-eng.asp>
- The Government of Canada’s Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP) finances capital projects related to safety, almost all of which are airside. Since ACAP’s inception, the Government of Canada claims an investment totaling \$476 million for 571 projects at 165 airports. This includes a January allocation announcement of 2009-2010 Round One project funding of over \$7 million. In and connecting to our Northwest Corridor region, January’s announced allocations included some monies toward installing runway directional lighting in Grande Prairie, Alberta and for rehabilitation of the field electrical centre at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Backgrounders on ACAP and on the complete list of announced allocations can be found at: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/mediaroom/releases/nat/2009/09-h021e.htm>



Initiatives Prince George is pleased to present:

WEST TO EAST – EXPORTING TO ASIA

Invited forum speakers include:

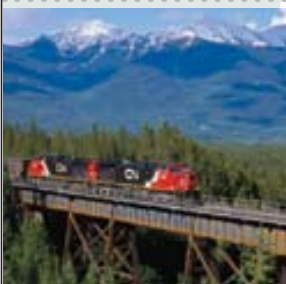
- **Mike Bowman**
Facilities Manager, Transload • CN Worldwide North America
- **Dave Bedwell**
Executive Vice President • COSCO Container Lines
- **George Mah**
Sales Representative, Assistant Manager • Hanjin Shipping Vancouver

Come learn from the experts how your company can export goods to Asia efficiently and effectively.

DATE: 9:00 am – 1:00pm • Tuesday, February 10, 2009

WHERE: CN WorldWide North America Conference Room
855 River Road, Prince George, BC V2L 5M5

RSVP: Please reply to Wei Liu on or before Wednesday, February 4, 2009
Telephone: (250) 649-3210 • Email: liu@initiativespg.com



North West Territories Notes

- “Canada can no longer afford to maintain a passive approach to our Northern interests. Empty rhetoric will not secure our sovereignty.”
– NWT Premier Roland regarding a new United States Presidential Directive on the Arctic
- The President of the NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC), Gordon Van Tighem, said the inability to fund capital projects has led to a growing community infrastructure deficit that may now be as high as \$400 million in the NWT. Regarding this month’s federal budget, Van Tighem said, “It is important that the federal government has recognized the importance of community infrastructure projects to the national and territorial economies,” adding, “We have to ensure all communities, especially our smaller communities, get a share of this investment so they’re not left further behind.” Van Tighem, also Mayor of Yellowknife and a long serving director of NCDC, further details federal budget implications for NWT communities in a news release which can be viewed in its entirety on our member organization’s website: <http://www.nwtac.com/>

Yukon Notes

- As well as providing German tire manufacturer, Fulda, the ideal testing ground for their new prototype winter tires, the Fulda Challenge Extreme Arctic Winter Adventure, successfully staged in January, offered decathlon athletes, a chance to test their skills, strength and endurance in mixed (two-person) team competition. Each winning contestant, from Team Busemann of Germany, received a pure Yukon gold nugget in addition to cash prizes. As an event partner, Yukon’s partnership investment of \$150,000 is returned many times over in monies spent locally, estimated this year at over \$1 million. It was Fulda’s 13th consecutive year staging Yukon events. 2009 marked the 2nd year Fulda chartered a Condor aircraft to bring a contingent to the Yukon. Other event partners were Toyota and Condor Airlines. Fulda’s managing Director, Michael Kuhn, said, “These events have helped to improve the general awareness of Yukon in Europe, at both the consumer and travel trade level. I am convinced that this success story will continue with this year’s event.”



Photo source: Ministry of Forests and Range
BC Forests and Range Minister, Pat Bell, chaired the Forestry Panel Session at the Northern Economic Summit in Prince George. On the panel were (left to right) Hank Ketchum, Fred Enga, and Keith Spencer.

British Columbia Notes

- A successful Northern Economic Summit was held in Prince George. The two-day event, addressed at its start and finish, by Premier Gordon Campbell, had over 600 attending

Alberta Notes

- With intake closing *March 15, 2009*, the province and the federal government announced jointly the opening of applications to the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component (BCF-CC). Access information on the fund and application at: <http://www.buildingcanadafundalberta.ca/EN/>

Manitoba Notes


- The Communities Component of the Building Canada infrastructure plan is now open for business in Manitoba. With the deadline for applications being *February 23, 2009*, visit the following website as soon as possible for further details: www.infrastructure.mb.ca/
- A new Canada-Manitoba Economic Partnership Agreement was signed this month by the Province and Western Economic Diversification Canada. It will support long-term economic growth and competitiveness in Manitoba by each government contributing \$25 million over the next four years.

NCDC Organizational Notes

- As NCDC member organizations, your interests are well represented through an elected, voluntary Board of Directors. Some changes to the board occurred at our 2008 Annual General Meeting (AGM). BC municipal elections subsequent to our AGM necessitated further change in the make-up of our Board of Directors. Currently serving for 2008/2009 are:
 - Chair, Mrs. Carolyn Kolebaba - Councillor, Northern Sunrise County, Peace River, AB
 - BC Vice-chair, Mr. Laurie Brown - Airport Manager, Northwest Regional Airport, Terrace, BC
 - AB Vice-chair, Mr. Berry Heinen - Deputy Mayor, Town of Peace River, Peace River, AB
 - Director, Mr. Maynard Angus - Manager, Public Affairs, Prince Rupert Port Authority, Prince Rupert, BC
 - Director - Mr. Jim Feeny - Director, Regional Public & Government Affairs, CN, Edmonton, AB
 - Director - Mr. Jeff Burghardt - President, Prince Rupert Grain Ltd., Prince Rupert, BC
 - Director - Mr. Kevin Dobbin - Rio-Tinto Alcan, Regional Industrial Development, NW-BC, Kitimat, BC
 - Director - Mr. Brian Downie - Councillor, City of Terrace, Terrace, BC
 - Director - Mr. Charles Johnson - Councillor, Clear Hills County, Worsley, AB
 - Director - Mr. Bruce Lantz - Mayor, City of Fort St. John, Fort St. John, BC
 - Director - Mr. Tim McEwan - President & Chief Executive Officer, Initiatives Prince George Development Corporation, Prince George, BC
 - Director - Mr. George Schmidt - Mayor, Town of High Level, High Level, AB
 - Director - Mr. Ron Vanderlee - Manager Community Relations and Administration, Pacific Northern Gas Ltd., Terrace, BC
 - Director - Mr. Gordon Van Tighem, Mayor, City of Yellowknife, Yellowknife, NT
 - Honourary Director - Mr. Graham Kedgley - President, Kitac Enterprises Ltd., Vancouver, BC

- In addition to an active group of directors, NCDC is fortunate to have acting as resource persons to the board, the following individuals:
 - Resource - Mr. Dan Dibbelt - Executive Director, Northern Alberta Development Council, Peace River, AB
 - Resource - Mr. John Rustad - MLA, Prince George – Omineca, Chair, Northern Caucus, Government of British Columbia, Prince George, BC
 - Resource - Mr. George Tyszewicz - Principal Policy Advisor, Transport Canada, Pacific Region, Vancouver, BC
- Our thanks to outgoing NCDC directors for their dedicated service to the Northwest Corridor:
 - Past Chair – Mr. Don Zurowski, Prince George, BC
 - Mr. Dan Blais – Nampa, AB
 - Director – Mrs. Marilyn Davies, Terrace, BC
 - Director – Mr. Bud Powell, Dawson Creek, BC
 - Director – Mr. Ron Wiebe, Grande Prairie, AB

Northwest Corridor



Development Corporation

**Check out our website re-development,
launching in March, 2009:**

www.nwcorridor.com

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