

The Transporter

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER



Announcement Brings \$90 Million for Transportation Projects

Michael McLeod, Minister of Transportation joined John Godfrey, Minister of State (Infrastructure and Communities), and Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Minister of State (Northern Development), recently in Yellowknife to jointly announce successful completion of negotiations to provide more funding for Corridors for Canada projects.



Transportation Minister Michael McLeod signs a ceremonial document that confirms an agreement between the federal and territorial governments to spend an additional \$45 million each on NWT transportation infrastructure projects.

The agreement under the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund will add \$90 million to \$40 million previously committed for improvements to two strategic highway corridors in the Northwest Territories that were identified in the NWT's Corridors for Canada funding proposal. The additional \$45 million from each partner will ensure completion and addition of new highway and winter road projects in the Mackenzie Valley and Slave Geological Province transportation corridors.

"With an additional \$45 million for Corridors for Canada, the Government of Canada has now fulfilled the commitment it made in the fall of 2003," Mr. McLeod said. "It promised at that time to join with the GNWT to fund projects that would create conditions for economic growth and respond to the enormous pressure that our highway system is under because of a booming resource economy."

The additional CSIF funds will be used to finish reconstructing the last 32 kilometres of Highway 3 between Yellowknife and Rae. Sections of Highway 4, the Ingraham Trail, are being improved to make it safer for the growing volume of traffic that uses it.

Reconstruction of the Dempster Highway will be extended and there will be work done on parts of the Liard and Mackenzie highways. The funding will also cover the cost of straightening sections and cutting down hills on the Mackenzie Valley winter road.

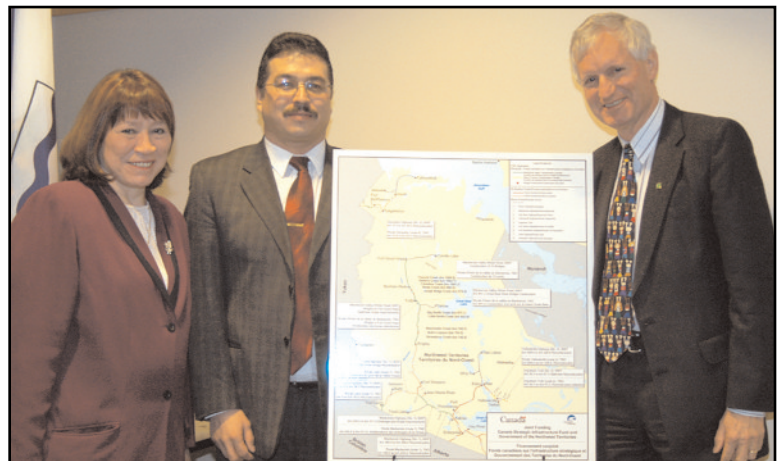
Ten permanent bridges on that road between Wrigley and Norman

Wells and a 500-metre bridge across Great Bear River Bridge on the road near Tulita are also included.

Winter road improvements will lengthen the overall season for exploration and community resupply and generally reduce isolation in those communities without year-round road access.

In the short term, CSIF funding means jobs, contracts and business opportunities for Northerners and more opportunity to increase tourism, the minister noted. In the long term, greater access to our abundant natural resources will produce benefits for Northerners and all Canadians.

Improvements to the highways system will also put the GNWT in a better position to support, and benefit from, construction of the Mackenzie Valley gas project.



Transportation Minister McLeod is flanked by Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Minister of State (Northern Development), and John Godfrey, Minister of State (Infrastructure and Communities), during a joint announcement of an additional \$90 million for improvements to NWT highways and the Mackenzie Valley winter road. The map shows the location of the projects that will be funded through an amended agreement under the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund.

HR UPDATES

Farewell...

Wendy Ondrack-
Northwest Territories
Business Development

Welcome...

Stephanie Lewis-
Business Development
Northwest Territories

Helene Maher presented with Award of Excellence



While many DOT employees prepared for a well-deserved Christmas break, the final 2003 Award of Excellence was presented in Hay River. Helene Maher, Administrative Assistant, South Slave regional office, was the recipient of the award that honours DOT employees for their exemplary work ethic. Helene was identified by her colleagues as an individual who excels at what she does by taking initiative, and investing extra time and effort in her role within the department. The Award of Excellence committee follows a criteria that identifies staff members that reinforce DOT's core values in the workplace. This year, in addition to Helene, the dedication of Marvin Ringham, Manager, Buildings and Planning, Airports, and Bob Powless, Driver Examiner, North Slave region, was also recognized with the Award of Excellence.

Les Shaw death shocks and saddens

Friends and colleagues of Les Shaw were shocked and saddened to learn that he died suddenly of natural causes on December 26 in Sechelt, B.C.

Les, born in Campbell River, B.C., retired from the Department of Transportation last summer as Regional Superintendent in Fort Simpson and Director, Marine Services. Prior to joining the GNWT in 1989, he enjoyed a career in the marine industry that included BC Ferries, BC coastal resupply operations and Beaufort hydrocarbon exploration support. Les held a 2nd Class Marine Engineering Endorsement and belonged to the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers.

He first came north in April 1977 to work as Chief Engineer on the MV Norweta out of Hay River. He went back to BC in 1982 but the lure of the north brought him back to Hay River in the summer of 1985. He returned to BC in 1987 for another two years then joined the GNWT in Inuvik as Superintendent of Marine Operations.

In August 1994, he was promoted to Assistant Regional Superintendent in Inuvik. In November 1995, Les started working in Fort Simpson as Marine Superintendent on an acting basis and in March 1996 was promoted to that same position. In June 1998, Les was appointed to Superintendent Fort Simpson/Director, Marine Services.

Gerald Perron, who stepped into Les's shoes in Fort Simpson, met Les in 1986 and worked closely with him after he moved to Fort Simpson. Gerald and other colleagues remember Les as a dedicated professional who knew how to get the job done and was highly respected by his colleagues, contractors, shippers and the traveling public.

"Anyone who came in contact with him found him to be very interested in their work and personal life as well," Gerald recalls. "He'll be missed by his family, friends and co-workers. I personally lost a great friend."

Les is survived by two daughters, five grandchildren and three brothers. A brother and sister predeceased him. A Celebration of Life was held in Les's honour in Sechelt on January 2. A North of 60 "Celebration of Les Shaw's Life" is being planned for this summer.

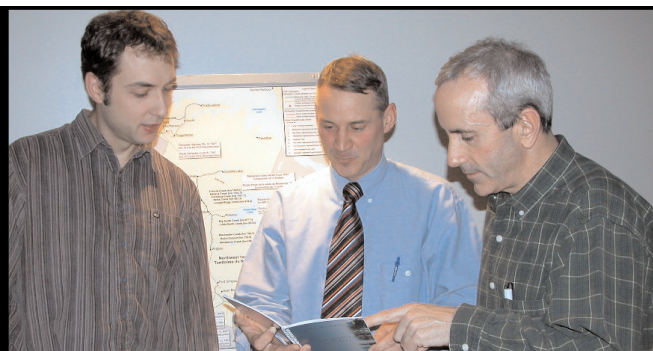
Messages of condolence may be sent to: Bert and Mary Shaw, 4357 Wilson Road, Sechelt B.C., V0N 3A1. Donations can be made to a charity of your choice "In Memory of Les Shaw."



This photo shows Les Shaw enjoying his favourite pastime prior to his untimely death on December 26, 2004. Les, former Regional Superintendent in Fort Simpson and Director, Marine Services, retired last summer after 15 years with the Department of Transportation and moved to B.C. Les played a key role in developing the Seven Spruce golf course in Fort Simpson.



Inuvik regional staff gathered for some well-



Kevin McLeod (centre), Director, Highways, reviews with Nick Bevington (left),