

The Transporter



ISSUE 56 - October/November 2005
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER



TRANSPORTATION *In Motion*

GNWT Releases New Infrastructure Proposals

Two separate funding proposals with the combined potential to dramatically change the state and the extent of the territory's transportation infrastructure were made public on November 29 by Transportation minister Michael McLeod.

"Together, *Corridors for Canada II: Building on Our Success* and *Connecting Canada: Coast to Coast to Coast* address both the current, critical needs of our struggling highway system and offer a realistic plan to make our territory and our nation stronger and more prosperous," the minister said at a news conference in Yellowknife.

The proposals seek more federal investment for projects that would strengthen the territory's existing highway system and extend the Mackenzie Highway to Tuktoyaktuk. The estimated price tag for projects identified in *Corridors for Canada II* is \$162 million. The cost of constructing an all-weather highway down the Mackenzie Valley to connect with the Dempster Highway and to Tuktoyaktuk is expected to be about \$700 million.

Mr. McLeod said *Corridors For Canada II* is intended to send a message to the federal government that an urgent need

exists to invest more money in the existing highway infrastructure to meet the growing demands of resource development and a rapidly expanding economy. The original *Corridors for Canada* proposal that was submitted to the federal government in 2002 resulted in \$130 million in joint funding from the GNWT and the Government of Canada through the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund (CSIF) that has been used to improve Highway 1,3,4,5 and 8 and to carry out grade improvements and construct permanent bridges on the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road.

Projects in the Slave Province and Mackenzie Valley transportation corridors, in response to the demands of economic growth and resource development, would cost an estimated \$117 million.

"To help our smaller communities take maximum advantage of the opportunity before us to create a more diversified economy, to increase mobility for residents in those communities and to lower their cost of living through better connections with the rest of the territory, we are proposing projects worth another \$45 million," Mr. McLeod said.

He said building a \$700 million highway

down the Mackenzie Valley, as proposed in *Connecting Canada*, would serve the interests of Northerners and all Canadians by making it easier to develop resources along the Mackenzie Valley and in the Beaufort Delta. He said the highway would also support sovereignty, emergency response and economic and social development in the North.

"It's a project whose time has come," the minister said.



Deputy Minister Russ Neudorf describes to Kelly Kaylo, chair of the NWT Business Coalition, and Mark Walker, president of the NWT Chamber of Commerce, some of the challenges involved in building an all-weather highway down the Mackenzie Valley to the Arctic Coast

WORKING *Together*

2005 Highways Conference Addresses Quality



Kevin Dragon discusses the importance of quality in bridge and structure design, fabrication, and construction at the recent Highways Conference held in Yellowknife.

"Quality Assurance - Excellence in Our Highways" was the theme of this year's Highways Conference, held at the Explorer Hotel in Yellowknife on November 15 and 16.

The conference hosted over 50 participants, including speakers from the Department of Transportation as well as speakers from outside the department. The two-day event saw 10 presentations on different areas of quality control, and a workshop.

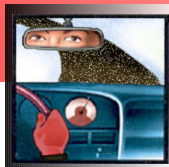
"This year's conference was extremely successful," said Kevin McLeod, Director of Highways. "It's vital that we as professionals take the time to get together to discuss our issues and challenges, and derive solutions to them."

The theme of next year's conference will be "Innovation".

SAFETY *Tip*

Winter Driving

Don't be left out in the cold



-Keep an emergency kit on hand which includes: a flashlight, blanket, bag of sand, extra washer fluid, a windshield scraper, jumper cables, food and water.

-Keep a firm grip on the wheel. Ruts in the road, heavy winds or ice may force you to make sudden, sharp moves that could cause you to lose control of your vehicle.

Safety Tip is brought to you by Occupational Health & Safety

-Check tires, wiper blades and fluid, and lights before getting on the road.

-Drive to the condition of the road. Slower speed and increased following distance allow more time to react if something unexpected happens.

-Plan long trips carefully. Check the weather forecast and latest road condition report and travel during daylight if possible - this is especially true in areas with bison on and near the highway.

"Whatever you are, be a good one."

- Abraham Lincoln



Out of Africa and Back at Highways

From Yellowknife to Gabon, to Belize, and back to Yellowknife, the new Head of Structures in the Highways Division has followed an interesting path to her current position.

Ann Lanteigne has returned to Highways after an eventful eight-year absence. She spent 11 years with DOT as a project engineer in what was then the Airports section of Highways and, before that, in the Structures section. In 1997, Ann and her husband, Michel, also an engineer, accepted an offer from a Canadian oil company to move to Gabon, a country on the west coast of Africa.

The couple set up an office for the company and managed its business affairs in the country. They also stayed to assist during the exploration phase and early production.

"Michel was the manager and I looked after the administration," Ann says.

One of the first things that struck Ann about her change in surroundings was the temperature, as she had left Yellowknife for Africa in February.



Ann Lanteigne, Highways Division's new Head of Structures

Other major differences included a new official language as Gabon is French speaking, and dealing with the local government, which Ann describes as "very different" from here at home. But, says Ann, there were some similarities to Yellowknife, such as the motivation to get

the job done.


There are things she misses about Gabon, like "walking down white sand beaches at noon", but Ann is looking forward to renewing old acquaintances with colleagues and contractors, and is excited about the prospects surrounding the growth of the territory.

Since returning to Canada in 2000, Ann and her husband have trekked all over North America.

"I like to say we traveled from southern Ontario to Belize via Yellowknife," Ann says.

The birth of their daughter brought them back to Canada, and employment prospects finally brought the couple back to Yellowknife.

Once again in Yellowknife, but before returning to DOT, Ann started her own company, Boreal Design & Construction, and began teaching a dance class. Last summer she responded to the job ad for Head of Structures with Highways.

"And voila...here I am back where I started my engineering career in 1986." 



Lynn Cook, Director, Corporate Services, chats with Jim Pickering, Highway Patrol Officer in the North Slave region, during a reception held in October to bid her farewell. Lynn and her husband have moved to Edmonton, where Lynn has assumed the position of Executive Director of Human Resources with Alberta's Department of Infrastructure and Transportation. Lynn joined the GNWT in 1997 as Executive Director of Corporate Human Resource Services and moved to Transportation and the position she held for over five years.



DOT in Inuvik recently hosted the annual Christmas party for staff and their families in the Inuvik Regional office, which included a pot luck and gift exchange. Alex White, airport mechanic, and his wife, Eileen, donated a gift for each of the children.

And the Winner is...

Congratulations to the following people for being the YK division that submitted the most recipes to the DOT Cookbook with a total of 29 recipes. They won a sub platter for 12.

- Suzanne Parent
- Gail Daniels
- Melanie Pond
- Karen Decker
- Pearl Chen
- Daryl Green
- Martina Simons



Once again, thank you to everyone who submitted a recipe and purchased a cookbook. Your support of the YK Social Committee is greatly appreciated.



Halloween scared up this costumed group of department employees in Yellowknife (from left), Margaret Czyn, Adrienne Cartwright, Stephanie Lewis, Corrine Ferdinand, Eleese Scott, Karen Decker-Brien and Jay Butler.



DOT Cookbook on sale now:

Over 100 recipes from employees in Yellowknife \$20 each - while supplies last Contact YK Social Committee members to obtain a copy.

Upcoming Events in YK:

- Dec. 9..... DOT Xmas party at Hot Shots
- Dec. 16..... Xmas Draw
- Dec. 17..... Kid's Party at Ruth Inch Pool

Every payday - 50/50 Draw

HUMAN RESOURCE Updates

Farewell

- YK Road Licencing & Safety** - Stephen Murphy, Blair Barbour
- Highways, YK** - Kamran Khanzada
- Corporate Services** - Lynn Cook
- Directorate** - Margo McMinn
- YK Airports** - Cole Crook
- Casual** - Peter Apples, Rick Reynolds, Robert Beaulieu, Leo Betsina, Jon Galipeau, James Bonnetrouge, Elizabeth Lane, Talisa Cummings, Lawrence Beaulieu, Patricia Coyne, Liz Turner, Edward Bonnetrouge, BJ Tees-Heisler



Know of any new and exciting story ideas? Contact:

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Welcome

- Corporate Services** - Ermina Abalayan
- Highways, YK** - Kevin Dragon, Vladimir Goldenberg, Naheed Ahmad, Ann Lanteigne
- Casual** - Kevin Roche, Shane Leahy

CORRECTION: Our apologies to **Dwayne Venema**, of Fort Smith Highways Division, who was listed under "farewell" in the Aug/Sept issue. Sorry Dwayne, and welcome to DOT.



Check out **The Transporter** online at:
www.dot.gov.nt.ca