

ON TRAC



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Northern Transportation

The Institute was asked, by Transport Canada, to facilitate Northern Information Day II. This year's event, held as a follow up to Northern Information Day held in January 2003, was an opportunity for government departments to better understand what each other does pertaining to Northern issues. Northern Information Day II built on the first event to discuss specific issues concerning Northern Transportation.

To further the discussions held at the Northern Information days, the Institute, in partnership with WESTAC and the University of Manitoba's Transport Institute, will host a Northern Transportation Conference in Yellowknife from November 8-10, 2005. The conference will highlight the massive opportunities in the North and address how transportation is affecting its future. Topics of discussion will include a northern vision, transportation partnerships, current transportation infrastructure, air, surface and marine challenges, pipeline development, climate change and northern sovereignty and security. The last session of the conference will bring together the delegates to draft an action plan for northern transportation moving forward, and will discuss what important steps need to be taken to achieve this goal. For more information, or to register, log on to the VHI website at www.vanhorne.info.

Institute Works with Calgary Economic Development

The Institute, in conjunction with Prolog Inc., responded to a request from Calgary Economic Development to identify key prospects in the agri-food products, computer supplies, consumer goods, industry supplies, medical supplies and office products & furniture industries who may be interested in locating a distribution centre in Calgary. Utilizing student researchers from the University, the Institute identified well over one thousand prospects in the geographic regions identified for us by Calgary Economic Development. This number was ultimately reduced and the remaining companies were telephoned. Twenty promising prospects were identified and submitted to Calgary Economic Development for further contact. The opportunity had multiple benefits, including the engagement of student researchers as well as gaining a better understanding of the factors that companies weigh in order to determine the location of distribution centres.

Key Contacts

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President & CEO

SARAH BOLTON
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The Van Horne Institute has been established to address important transportation and related regulatory issues confronting industry and government, in North America and internationally, through education and research. The Institute was incorporated federally in 1991 as a not-for-profit organization, and was granted affiliation with the University of Calgary in January 1992, the University of Alberta in 1998, and with SAIT in January 2000.

New and Returning Members

The Institute is delighted to welcome the following companies and organizations as new members:

1. Exel
2. Aviation Alberta
3. KPMG

The Institute also wishes to recognize the contribution of Air Canada. Air Canada is renewing its membership with the Institute after having undergone a period of restructuring.

Exel is a world leader in supply chain management providing services to a wide range of industries. Exel supply chain solutions includes all aspects of freight management and contract logistics in addition to a range of integrated value added and specialist services, including supply chain design, consulting warehousing, distribution after sale services and IT support.

KPMG provides a wide range of corporate/finance/accounting services throughout the world. Their expertise in the field of transportation research and advice, including public/private advisory services, creates significant opportunities for interaction with the Institute and its ongoing programs.

Aviation Alberta is a catalyst for industry growth and is positioning itself to be the recognized voice of aerospace, airport and aviation interests in Alberta. Its goals include the promotion of a safe and financial sustainable aerospace, airport and aviation industry in Alberta.

Alaska-Yukon Rail Link

The Institute is continuing to work with the University of Alaska in defining specific tasks for investigation as part of a major work program to investigate the feasibility of a rail link between Alaska and Canada. The initiative is moving very quickly and we will be in a position to report further in the next issue of On Trac.

Transportation Research Log

The inventory of transportation research at the University of Calgary has been presented to Dr. Dennis Salahub, Vice President of Research. The next step will be to develop processes whereby other research that we have not yet found at the University can be registered as well as updating the work that has been catalogued in the inventory. A copy of the inventory will be made available upon request to Sarah Bolton at sbolton@ucalgary.ca

Update on High Speed Rail

The Institute, with a number of members of the High Speed Rail feasibility study task force, made, at their request, a presentation to the transportation sub-committee of the Alberta Economic Development Authority. We recommended to the committee that AEDA should recommend to the government, the development of an additive market study to test the projections contained in the Institute study.

The president of the Institute has been asked, by numerous Chambers of Commerce and other organizations, to present the findings of the pre-feasibility study. A number of presentations have been made throughout the spring and summer 2005.

Institute Participates in National Transportation Skills Development Forum

The Van Horne Institute was invited by Transport Canada, to participate in the National Transportation Skills Development Forum that was held in Toronto, June 13-15. The Forum brought together representatives from transportation sector councils, educational institutions, professional bodies, unions and employee groups, all forms of government, private industry and industry associations to address the challenges and opportunities with respect to skills development in the transportation sector. Input received from the break out sessions at the conference is being compiled to draft a National Action Plan for Transportation Skills Development. Transport Canada plans to further validate the Plan through discussions with various stakeholder groups.

Dr. David Walls Awarded Killam Resident Fellowship

Dr. David Walls was awarded the Killam Resident Fellowship for the Fall 2005 term. The Killam Resident Fellowship recognizes merit in scholarly activity by providing individual scholars with an opportunity to complete works or projects requiring a period of intensive effort free of teaching, administrative or other duties. Dr. Walls will be conducting research of the motion picture industry to develop statistical methodology on the dynamics of information and how the motion picture industry is organized to learn about and adapt to demand. The VHI wishes to thank Dr. Walls for his significant contribution as Academic Director for the Centre.

Research in Energy and Transport Markets

Dr. David Walls has recently published a collection of papers with the Van Horne Institute entitled, "Research in Energy and Transport Markets". This book has been well received by reviewers and makes a positive contribution to the Institute's public policy research in regulated industries and transportation. To obtain a copy, please contact the Institute directly.

Distinguished Speaker Series

Mr. Tim Speed

The Van Horne Institute and the Calgary Chamber of Commerce were proud to present Mr. Tim Speed, President, Exel Canada on Friday, April 22, 2005. Mr. Speed discussed how companies are transforming their supply chains to remain competitive in an increasingly global marketplace. Mr. Speed's presentation is available for viewing on the Institute's website at www.vanhorne.info.

Mr. Sean Finn

The Van Horne Institute will present Mr. Sean Finn, Senior Vice-President Public Affairs, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary, CN. Mr. Finn will join us in Calgary at the Hayatt Regency Calgary on Thursday, October 20, 2005 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. For more information, or to register, contact the Institute at 403.220.8455, or log on to our website at www.vanhorne.info.

Look forward to Mr. Paul Côté, President & CEO, Via Rail Canada and Mr. Robert Milton, President & CEO, Air Canada, as they join us as future Distinguished Speakers.

Federal Transportation Policy

The Van Horne Institute, in conjunction with WESTAC, hosted a roundtable discussion with Hon. Minister Jean-C. Lapierre on August 23, 2005. The event gave participants the opportunity to share their views on the proposed amendments to the Canada Transportation Act, Canada Marine Act, and airport policies. Participants were asked to deliver to the Minister, their views of future transportation policy in Canada to assist the Minister and the Cabinet in developing a new economic policy for this Country.

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Air Transport Association of Canada
Alberta Energy & Utilities Board
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* Denotes new members.

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