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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.

High Speed Rail

The Calgary-Edmonton corridor has been characterized by the TD Economics special report as "Canada's Western Tiger".

"Over the past decade, the region has registered explosive real economic growth and population increases surpassing rates chalked up in the majority of North American urban centres". "Given all of its assets, the corridor enjoys enormous potential – not only to widen its economic lead within Canada, but to become the region that stands out as the most prosperous and best place to live in all of North America".

These quotes fit very nicely within the context of the work being done by the Institute on a pre-feasibility study of high-speed rail in the Calgary/Red Deer/Edmonton corridor. In Europe, high-speed rail links major economic centres and acts as a tool of economic development. Why not in Alberta?

The Institute is working with the Government of Alberta and with the Federal Departments of Western Economic Diversification and Transport Canada on the project. Canadian Pacific Railway, SNC-Lavalin Inc., Bombardier Transportation, VIA Rail Canada and CANAC, are also contributing to the study.

Funding for the study has been secured on an in-kind and cash basis and is now progressing well. It is anticipated that study will now be completed in the mid to late fall 2003.

The Transportation Sector in Alberta: Present Position and Future Outlook

The Van Horne Institute and PROLOG Canada Inc. were selected by the Alberta Economic Development Authority to conduct a study on *The Transportation Sector in Alberta: Present Position and Future Outlook*. Business leaders from a broad spectrum of transportation-related businesses have participated in either one-day workshops (that were held in Calgary and Edmonton) or responded to telephone interviews. The goal of these workshops was to solicit their views on the current issues facing the transportation sector, and more importantly, to receive their advice as to how the transportation industry and transportation infrastructure will need to be modified to support a future Alberta value-added economy.

Other questions included: What are the key infrastructure, technology and policy changes on the horizon. How is your business going to evolve in light of a rapidly changing world? What do you see as being the key opportunities and what is needed to see them realized from a transportation perspective?

This study will demonstrate the importance of transportation to the Alberta economy today and into the future. The study is expected to be completed and delivered to the Alberta Economic Development Authority, in the fall of 2003.

Centre for Information & Communication Alberta SuperNet Research Alliance Update

Funding has been allocated and research activities are under way in a three-year study of the social and economic impacts of the **Alberta SuperNet**. The project is wholly funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), under its *Initiative on the New Economy* funding envelop.

The research – led by David Mitchell (Academic Director for the Van Horne Institute Centre for Information and Communication Committee and University of Calgary), and conducted by 14 researchers from four universities in Alberta and British Columbia in all – comprises a precedent-setting analysis of the roll-out of a broadband network on a jurisdiction-wide scale. The research will evaluate the impacts of the *SuperNet* in areas such as telehealth, distance education, emergency and disaster response, business development and clusters, and library and information services.

The research is coordinated at the University of Calgary, with advisory and management input coming from all researchers but in particular the Business School at the University of Alberta and the Health Telematics Unit at the University of Calgary.

The research is of particular interest to a variety of government departments and agencies at the federal level, since it will provide a valuable test case for identifying issues and opportunities in rolling out broadband on a national scale.

This work has already received international attention and is seen as providing a unique case study of broadband roll-out on this scale and at this depth. The work is of relevance and importance to the VHI because of the extent to which carriage in this case is situated as an issue in the social context, as well as the regulatory domain. As a result, the VHI has the potential to advance its visibility in the community at large by playing an advocacy role in promoting the value of this work as it feeds into the policy

process—particularly at the federal level.

In addition to research activities in the field, symposia will be held this fall and again in 2005 to provide a forum in which community, public sector and private sector stakeholders can meet and exchange information and knowledge on SuperNet specifically and their experiences with broadband generally. Successful application to the *Telus Special Events* fund will be used to support the upcoming symposium in mid-November.

Two + Two Program Workshop—September 15, 2003

SAIT and the University of Calgary have devised a program that will allow a student to enter SAIT and take a two-year program of supply chain management and logistics leading to a diploma. This diploma can be laddered into an additional two years at the University of Calgary leading to a degree in transportation studies.

On Monday, September 15th, 2003, representatives from the University of Calgary and SAIT will be meeting with various individuals from the business community to discuss the proposed course content of the 2 + 2 Program.

We encourage all businesses who have a vested interest in the field of supply chain management, logistics and transportation to participate in this valuable workshop. Your input will help assure that your future employees will receive the right mix of courses and programs. Your participation in this workshop is an investment in the future of your business.

If you have any questions please call the Van Horne Institute at 403 220 8455.

Van Horne Institute Publication

Inter provincial Trade Barriers in Canada: How far have we come? Where should we go?

Interprovincial Trade Barriers in Canada: How far have we come? Where should we go? Is the outcome of the research, teaching and studying in the areas of international trade and Canadian public policy by Eugene Beaulieu, Jim Gaisford and Jim Higginson, Department of Economics, University of Calgary.

This report summarizes the literature on interprovincial trade barriers and experiences of several companies spanning sectors of the economy potentially affected the most by barriers. Members of The Van Horne Institute and other business in the transportation and energy sectors were interviewed. A primary concern of these companies is related to the higher costs of managing a business across different provinces where provincial standards, rules and regulations differ. Another type of problem stems from industries that are regulated by several different arms of government.

The report provides a comprehensive overview of interprovincial trade in Canada. It presents the issue in an historical context and examines the road leading to the provincial and federal government initiative to address interprovincial barriers, the Agreement of Internal Trade (AIT). Several case studies are considered to illustrate the extent of internal trade barrier problems. The report analyses the objectives and results of the AIT. It concludes that the AIT was a step in the right direction, but a great deal of work remains and very little progress has been made since the Agreement was signed in 1994.

This publication will be available by the end of September. Members should expect to receive their personal copy right off the press.

Welcome New Members

The Van Horne Institute welcomes the following companies to the organization:

Canadian Air Transport Security Authority
Contact: Brian Flemming, Chairman

Duke Energy Gas Transmission
Contact: Doug Haughey, President of BC Pipeline & Field Services Division

Global Public Affairs
Contact: Randy Pettipas, President & CEO

Public Policy Forum
Contact: Elizabeth Everson, Director of Communications

Transportation Awareness Partnership (TAP)

"If the public had an appreciation of the critical contribution that transportation makes towards life in Canada, to the same extent it does for health care and education, industry would be better able to address the challenges it faces more effectively and ultimately better serve society".

This was the challenge that was put to a number of transportation stakeholder organizations that are concerned that Canadians are not aware of the severity of the issues facing transportation today.

The message that TAP wants to send is how transportation is a crucial and growing factor in the life of Canadians and affects their livelihoods and the standard of living that we enjoy in this country.

The President of the Institute has agreed to act as Chairman of the Stakeholder Group to assist in the development of the core messages and the development of sufficient funding and resources to deliver this message to the general public. The timeframe for this social awareness campaign is still being discussed by the TAP membership. There can however, be no doubt as to the legitimacy of the issue and the challenges that it creates.

VAN HORNE INSTITUTE MEMBERS

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