GATEWAY TRADE MISSION BRINGS BUSINESS HOME FROM ASIA

VICTORIA – An increase in copper shipments to Japan through the Port of Vancouver and additional daily flights from Tokyo through Vancouver International Airport highlight the successful Pacific Gateway Alliance mission to Asia, led by Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Shirley Bond. Bond and officials from Pacific Gateway partners Port Metro Vancouver, Port of Prince Rupert, CN, Canadian Pacific, Vancouver International Airport and BNSF were in Asia on a trade mission to strengthen relationships and secure the Pacific Gateway’s position as the preferred gateway for Asian exporters.

“Our message in Asia was received loud and clear: Canada’s Pacific Gateway is a world-class transportation network with the most competitive port and supply chain system on the west coast of the Americas,” said Bond. “I am convinced that this mission will result in more shipping through Vancouver and Prince Rupert ports and along the rail corridors. Transportation is a key part of developing B.C.’s resource industries in the Interior and the North, and is vital in creating jobs in communities in all regions of B.C. – from shipping lines, insurance and financing corporations to third-party logistics, long shore workers and the tourism industry.”

“Canada’s largest and most diverse port has been well served by participating in the Pacific Gateway Alliance mission to Asia,” said Robin Silvester, President and CEO, Port Metro Vancouver. “British Columbia is uniquely positioned as Canada’s Pacific Gateway, and the opportunities we cultivated during this trip will benefit B.C. ports, and all Canadians for many years to come,” he said.

“For the past several years, the Port of Prince Rupert has become internationally recognized by the world’s largest shipping companies as a destination of choice,” said Don Krusel, President and CEO, Port of Prince Rupert. “The Port of Prince Rupert offers shippers and producers many competitive advantages to move their cargo with unparalleled reliability, speed and efficiency.”

"The Pacific Gateway Alliance made a very strong case for the cost-effectiveness and reliability of B.C.’s port gateways and rail networks for Asia Pacific traders,” said Paul Waite, vice-president, CN Intermodal. “CN's strong focus on increased collaboration with supply chain partners, and its substantial $600-million investment in projects related to the Asia-Pacific gateway corridors, are helping to enhance British Columbia’s ability to attract new trade flows between Asia, Canada and the U.S. Midwest."
“BNSF Railway is honoured to have participated in the Pacific Gateway trade mission to Japan, Korea, and China,” said Michelle Liu, BNSF director, international intermodal marketing. "The Pacific Gateway is an effective collaboration of industry and government that has resulted in more capability and opportunity for the Vancouver gateway. We would like to thank Minister Bond and all those who helped put together this successful mission.”

Alliance partners met with Asian companies committed to investing in B.C. business, and who want to increase imports of natural resources to meet growing Asian demand. For example, the Mitsubishi Materials Corporation of Japan owns 25 per cent of the Copper Mountain Mine Project. Copper Mountain’s goal is to produce 100 million pounds of copper per year by mid-2011, employing up to 300 people and shipping through the Port of Vancouver.

"Canadian Pacific's efficient and reliable service is a key element of the world-class Pacific Gateway supply chain,” said Jane O'Hagan, Canadian Pacific Senior Vice-President and Chief Marketing Officer. "Our industry-leading safety and innovative technology give us the capacity to drive the digital railroad and grow with our customers through a collaborative approach to the market."

The expansion of Tokyo’s Haneda Airport, including new daily non-stop Air Canada flights beginning in January 2011, will bring more travellers through Vancouver International Airport (YVR). Each time an Asia Pacific air service lands at YVR, close to 800 hours of employment are generated.

“I’ve been on a number of missions, and it is noticeable how much more impact our message has when we deliver it as a team,” said Tony Gugliotta, Senior VP Marketing and Business Development at YVR. “I am very optimistic that we will see more flights between Asian cities and YVR as a result of this trip.”

“In many ways, the work is just beginning,” said Bond. “We will continue to build on our relationships in Asia, and work to complete an MOU with Guangdon province, our sister province in China. We will also work with China Southern Air to introduce new flights to Vancouver, and with the federal government on open skies and open borders. Alliance partners will continue to be competitive through our collaboration on the Pacific Gateway, and ensure that future development meets the transportation needs of the world.”

Projects to expand and enhance the Pacific Gateway’s port, rail, road and airport infrastructure currently planned or underway total over $22 billion.

For news releases, audio clips and photos from the Asia trade mission and the Pacific Gateway, visit: [www.th.gov.bc.ca/PacificGateway-Asia2010](http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/PacificGateway-Asia2010)

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