

July 8, 2005

## **Government to provide land for container terminal in Grande Prairie**

### **New facility will streamline flow of goods to overseas markets**

Grande Prairie... The Alberta government will contribute \$2.75 million worth of land to kickstart development of an intermodal container facility that will speed up the flow of goods in northern Alberta.

The proposed terminal at Grande Prairie will reduce transportation costs, improve delivery times and enhance shippers' ability to capitalize on a burgeoning container port in Prince Rupert, B.C.

At present, shippers using intermodal containers only have access to containers in Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. For shippers in the Peace Region, this means sending filled containers east to Edmonton in order to ship them west to Vancouver by rail-and then going back to Edmonton to pick up more empty ones. The equivalent of 12,000 containers of hay and forest products is hauled from the Grande Prairie area each year.

"By picking up containers in Grande Prairie instead of Edmonton, shippers will reduce their total truck and rail miles to Vancouver," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "That translates into lower costs, less traffic and a reduced impact on the environment and provincial highways. I congratulate the county's efforts to encourage economic diversification in the Peace Region."

The container terminal is to be built on approximately 100 acres of Crown land located near the junction of Highway 43 and Highway 2, just north of Grande Prairie. The total price tag for the project is approximately \$7 million, including the cost of the land. The County of Grande Prairie will be responsible for securing the remaining dollars required for the project.

"This project will create direct jobs and other local economic spin-offs," said Everett McDonald, Reeve of the County of Grande Prairie No. 1. "With the container facility in Prince Rupert slated to open in December 2006 and the newly re-opened railroad from Hythe to Dawson Creek, the Peace Region will be well positioned to capitalize on the new shipping opportunities created by the new B.C. facility."

If the container project does not proceed within three years, the land will revert back to the Crown.

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