

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
SENATE DISTRICT 0

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Session:  
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John J. Cowdery

Senate Rules, Chair

Senate Transportation Committee, Chair

World Trade State & Federal Relations, Chair

State Affairs, Legislative Council

January 12, 2004

Contact: Richard Schmitz, 907 465 4921

**PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONFERENCE PROMOTES ALASKA-CANADA RAIL CONNECTION**

**JUNEAU, Alaska** – Connecting Alaska with the rest of the North American rail network will be the topic of a one-day conference Thursday here at the Baranof Hotel. The goal of the conference is to increase awareness of the project, particularly as it relates to construction of the Alaska Highway natural gas pipeline. Governor Frank Murkowski will address the session, along with Canadian cabinet member Larry Bagnell.

The focus of the conference will be on how best to proceed with completing what's being called "the last transcontinental railroad." Approximately 1,000 miles separate the end of the Alaska Railroad near Eielson AFB with the Northern limits of the British Columbia Railroad at Fort Nelson.

Addressing the morning session of the conference will be Glenn Scammel of Rep. Don Young's office. Scammel is Chief Counsel, House Transportation Committee, Subcommittee on Rail.

Keynote speakers for the morning session include Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie, and two members of the British Columbia parliament. Leading the B.C. panel will be Minister Greg Halsey-Brandt (Intergovernmental Relations) and (MLA) Mr. Dennis MacKay, member of the Northern Caucus.

The conference is sponsored by Sen. John J. Cowdery, chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, and Rep. Jim Holm, his House counterpart.

Registration is from 7-7:45 a.m. with seven panel discussions scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The afternoon session includes panels exploring environmental, permitting, military and resource factors. Forums will be open for questions to panelists, time permitting.

**###**

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## RAIL CONFERENCE AGENDA

Revision 1.1

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CONNECTING RESOURCES, BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE  
*A CORRIDOR TO INCREASE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2004, BARANOF HOTEL, JUNEAU, ALASKA

PM

**6-8 p.m. REGISTRATION RECEPTION**  
**NO HOST BAR**  
**Baranof Hotel, Treadwell Room**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2004, BARANOF HOTEL, JUNEAU, ALASKA

AM

**7:00-7:45 REGISTRATION and Continental Breakfast**  
**8:00-8:15 SEN. JOHN J. COWDERY:**  
General welcome, Opening Comments.  
**Introduces MC, HOUSE CHAIR JIM HOLM:**  
General Welcome, Opening Comments  
**8:15-8:30 Former Rep. JEANNETTE JAMES**  
*We've talked enough ... Now it's time to move forward*

**PANEL 1: SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS**

Rep. Holm introduces Yukon Premier  
**8:30-8:40 YUKON PREMIER DENNIS FENTIE**  
**8:40-9:05 JESSE DUKE**, Director of Mineral Planning and Development  
**GEORGE PRIVETT**, Business Facilitator / Economic Development  
*Yukon's Development Potential*

**PANEL 2: BRITISH COLUMBIA DELEGATION**

Rep. Holm introduces B.C. Minister  
**9:15-10:00 HON. GREG HALSEY-BRANDT**,  
**MINISTER FOR STATE** for INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS  
**Mr. DENNIS MacKAY**,  
**MLA for BULKLEY VALLEY-STIKINE (NORTHERN CAUCUS)**  
**COLIN KINSLEY**, Mayor of PRINCE GEORGE  
**WAYNE DAHLEN**, Mayor of DAWSON CREEK

**10:00-10:15 BREAK FOR COFFEE**

**PANEL 3: THE CASE FOR THE RAIL CONNECTION**

Rep. Holm introduces Glenn H. Scammel  
**10:20-10:40 GLENN H. SCAMMEL, Chief Counsel**,  
**House Transportation Committee – Subcommittee on Rail**  
**10:40-10:45 Q&A**

**PANEL 4: RENEWED EMPHASIS ON ALASKA-CANADA PARTNERSHIP**

Sen. Fred Dyson introduces Matt Morrison  
**10:50-11:05 Matt Morrison, head of PNWER**  
Matt Morrison introduces Cascadia Institute  
**11:05-11:40 CASCADIA INSTITUTE**  
**CHARLES KELLY**  
*Canadian perspective on transportation infrastructure*  
**BILL VAN NESS**  
*Connecting Alaska to the Northwest – new coalitions*  
**11:40-11:50 Premier Fentie introduces:**  
**GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ**  
*Economic Ties with Yukon First Nations*

**LUNCH sponsored by: THE ALASKA RAILROAD**

**11:50-12:00 Break for set-up**

**PM**

**12:00-1:20 Sen. John Cowdery introduces:**  
**ALASKA GOV. FRANK MURKOWSKI**  
Premier Dennis Fentie introduces:

**THE HON. LARRY BAGNELL, MP for YUKON, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS with a special emphasis on NORTHERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Jeannette James introduces

**CONSUL GENERAL LOUIS ARREAGA**

and video presentation by

**STEVE HITES, owner SKAGWAY STREETCAR COMPANY**

*The value of a Transcontinental Railroad to Northern Tourism*

Sen. Cowdery introduces:

**Lt. Gov. LOREN LEMAN and**

**COMMISSIONERS, LEGISLATIVE LEADERS**

**1:20-1:30**

**Break**

**PRESS CONFERENCE WITH GOV. MURKOWSKI, HON. LARRY BAGNELL, PREMIER DENNIS FENTIE, MINISTER HALSEY-BRANDT, SEN. JOHN COWDERY, REP. JIM HOLM, MLA DENNIS MacKAY**

**PANEL 5:**

**THE GREEN FACTOR**

Rep. Holm introduces Dr. Charles Jurasz

**1:30-2:15**

**DR. CHARLES JURASZ**

*Grass and Cash are Green*

**GERALD FOX**

*Building the Permittable Railroad: a presentation by HDR, Inc.*

**GEORGE JEFFREY, Canadian Air Crane**

*Leaving a small construction footprint*

**PANEL 6:**

**TOWARD A BI-NATIONAL MULTI-USE CORRIDOR**

**2:15-2:20**

Rep. Holm introduces Jack Eidson and Kells Boland

**2:20-2:55**

**JACK EIDSON, Lockheed-Martin / University of Alaska**

**KELLS BOLAND, PROLOG Canada, Inc. / Van Horne Inst.**

*"Seeking synergies among trans-border infrastructure investments."*

**2:55-3:00**

**BREAK FOR COFFEE**

**PANEL 7:**

**MULTIMODAL CORRIDORS IN MOVEMENT OF RESOURCES**

**3:00-3:05**

Rep. Holm introduces Dr. Paul Metz

**3:05-3:20**

**DR. PAUL METZ, UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS**

**3:20-3:25**

Rep. Holm introduces Dr. Hal Cooper

**3:25-3:40**

**DR. HAL COOPER, Cooper Consulting**

**3:40-3:45**

**Q&A**

**3:45-4:00**

**Special Acknowledgments: JEANNETTE JAMES**

*Briefly introduce Joe Henri, Scott Robart as long-time supporters of rail connection*

**PANEL 7:    ROUND TABLE, Q&A**  
**4:00-5:00**    *as time permits*