



**Date: Friday September 20<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00AM to 3:00PM**

**HELP! 780-527-6232 (NTAB Cell)**

MD of Spirit River – Brownlee Building

Teleconference: 1 (647) 497-9391 Access Code: 629-467-829

Northern Transportation Advocacy Bureau

**Video Connect:** <https://meet.goto.com/629467829>

**NTAB Membership**

- Big Lakes County
- Birch Hills County
- Clear Hills County
- County of Grande Prairie
- County of Northern Lights #22
- MD of Fairview #136
- MD of Greenview #16
- MD of Smoky River #130
- MD of Spirit River #133
- MD of Opportunity #17
- MD of Peace #135
- Northern Sunrise County
- Saddle Hills County
- Town of Peace River
- Town of Sexsmith
- Town of Valleyview

**10:00AM Administration Update**

**10:30AM Bus Tour – MD of Spirit River**

Nick VanRootselaar, MD of Spirit River Councillor & Dave Johnson, Public Works Director will host NTAB members on a bus tour of the area; providing an overview of the challenges of maintaining a community airport, rural roads & bridges used by industrial traffic to transport agricultural products; and their experience partnering with AB Department of Transportation; CN Rail, and environment assessors to enhance industrial / economic development opportunities.

**11:45AM Lunch** Mikié’s Wheel Restaurant – Rycroft  
(Bus returns MD Spirit River Council Chamber 12:45)

**1:00PM Regional & Community Airports**



Will Stewart (AAE), Owner/Operator of Global Airport Services presents an overview of his report providing operational details of the regional & community airports in the Peace Region. [Click to Download Report from Global Airport Services](#)

**1:30PM Prince Rupert Economic Corridor Forum**



Announced June 2024 – AB government is providing a \$250K grant to the Prince Rupert Port Authority to coordinate the Industrial Heartland to British Columbia Economic Corridor Forum. In facilitating this project, the Prince Rupert Port Authority will invite participation from industry organizations, associations, municipalities and Indigenous communities, as well as other transportation and logistics experts, to explore opportunities along this vital corridor. David MacLean, Director of External Relations for Albert’s Industrial Heartland Association provides an overview of the purpose of the initiative and its potential impact on Alberta exports. [Click to Download Press Review](#)

**2:00PM CN Rail – 2024-2025 Grain Plan**



Released July 31, 2024 the Grain Plan for the upcoming year builds upon operational improvements and strategic capital investments from the previous grain season. The Plan is prepared through consultation with, and input from, key stakeholders, including the CN Agricultural Advisory Council (AAC) – a group of western Canadian farmers and industry leaders. **Alberta Grains**; a farmer-directed organization that represents the interests of and serves as the single voice for all of Alberta's wheat and barley producers; is a key stakeholder on CN’s AAC. Shannon Sereda, Director of Government Relations, Policy & Markets for Alberta Grains will provide an overall assessment of the CN Rail – 2024-2025 Grain Plan. [Click to Download 2024-2025 Grain Plan](#)



**2:30 – 3:00PM Open Discussion / Next Meeting**

[The World Diplomat – Sept 2024 Edition](#)

**Thank-you to our Meeting Host**





Northern Transportation Advocacy Bureau

Wednesday February 19th, 2025

6:00PM to 9:00PM

Holiday Inn & Suites (See Map)  
9816 107 St, Grande Prairie, AB

By Invitation Only – RSVP

Open Discussion  
Reception and Dinner

What’s Happening in the Arctic Circle?

The Northern Transportation Advocacy Bureau invites you to an evening of fabulous food, regional camaraderie, and sharing some of our inquiries on the geo-political activities in the Arctic Circle.

Background: Today, as Canadian politicians dream-speak of developing and securing the Arctic; Russia has already invested more than 100B into Arctic infrastructure, services, and residential housing. Leaving Canada; and the other six countries within the Arctic region many decades behind.

Russia covers 53% of the Arctic coastline; with Canada being the second largest at 40%. Russia has 2.5 million residents within their Arctic region; Canada has less than 100,000. Russia also has mega ports, oil&gas facilities; airports, railways, deep-sea fiber-optics; military bases, and numerous towns along its Arctic coastline.

Icebreakers are classified by the thickness of the ice they can plow through - heavy, medium, and light.

Canada has **2 medium** icebreakers and **6 light** icebreakers. Russia has **4 heavy nuclear-powered** icebreakers that can stay out on the ice for two years; **31 medium** class icebreakers, and **16 light** breakers.

In 2021 Canada announced construction of 2 “Polar?” icebreakers; promising that at least one would be ready by 2030. By 2030 Russia will have launched 6 more icebreakers; 3 will be heavy nuclear-powered.

Why is Canada so disengaged from and under-invested in its Arctic & Northern regions? **AND** why has the United States reignited its interest in Canada’s Arctic region and Greenland?

Looking forward to seeing you,  
Carolyn Kolebaba – NTAB Chair

RSVP

What’s Happening in the Arctic Circle

Email Us: [admin@peacecountrycanada.com](mailto:admin@peacecountrycanada.com)

Call Us: 780-527-6232

Resources: [Why Russia is building an Arctic Silk Road](#) (Click Video 8M)  
[Icebreakers in the Arctic](#) Infographic; (La Monde Diplomatique, 2020) – Attachment 1

NTAB Membership
Big Lakes County – Richard Mifflin
Birch Hills County – Deanne Wendland
Clear Hills County – Amber Bean
County of Grande Prairie – Leanne Beaupre
County of Northern Lights #22 – Gary These
MD of Fairview #136 – Dalen Richardson
MD of Greenview #16 – Tom Burton
MD of Smoky River #130 - Raoul Johnson
MD of Spirit River #133 – Nick vanRootselaar
MD of Opportunity #17 – Brendan Powell
MD of Peace #135 – Theresa Johnson
Northern Sunrise County – Carolyn Kolebaba
Saddle Hills County – Gerry Richard
Town of Peace River – Elaine Manzer
Town of Sexsmith - Ken Hildebrand