

Press Release: November 1, 2014

Grande Prairie Regional Logistics Park Ribbon Cutting

In 1997 Walter Paszkowski, then Minister of Transportation, sowed the seed for a Multi Modal Logistics Park in the Peace Region; A depot to move our Agriculture, Forestry, and Oil and Gas commodities to foreign markets. To new markets. To take our rich resources to the world. During the period the Province was constructing an interchange at the junction of Highway 2 & Highway 43 the idea emerged. The Province was using a nearby piece of land as a borrow pit to construct the interchange leaving a large parcel, at just the right spot, prime for a rail yard positioned with easy access to what was already the centre of a transportation hub.

Shortly after taking on the role of Economic Development Officer for the County of Grande Prairie, a passionate Walter and then Reeve Everett MacDonald acquired the land from the Provincial Government in exchange for a commitment to transport multiple commodities to market on rail. This is where the Side Group of Companies enters the picture. Through the requests for interest from the public process, the County and the Side Group came together. They were the perfect candidate to make this project a success. With their long standing relationship with CN Rail, service to the site was secured.

As we cut the ribbon on the first phase of what will be the largest multi user, multi modal, rail yard north of Edmonton offering material handling & distribution, cross-dock, trans-load and warehousing for a wide variety of industries including agriculture, forestry, oil and gas as well as bulk commodity handling for domestic and export markets; we see the result of great vision by a partnership of Provincial and Municipal Government alongside determination, planning and a willingness to take risk by business. Transportation, moving our goods to market, is the key to the success of this region. We are now able to offer a rail depot dedicated to addressing need.

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