



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 11, 2009      **CONTACT:** Jennifer Thompson, (202) 756-1977

## **Deputy Federal Coordinator Pleased With New Canadian Research Commitment**

June 11, 2009, Washington, D.C. – The Government of Canada announced it is sponsoring a research project that will help identify job opportunities related to an Alaska natural gas pipeline. The project will involve over a thousand miles of Canadian pipeline construction.

The Honorable Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, made the announcement yesterday on behalf of the Honorable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development. "The Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline project, if constructed, will be the largest infrastructure project ever built in North America. The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) commends Human Resources and Skills Development Canada for its leadership in supporting this survey of workforce needs for this important project," said the Honorable John van Dongen, President of PNWER.

Deputy Federal Coordinator Admiral Tom Barrett, Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects, welcomed the announcement from our partners in Canada. "This is terrific news. I am currently in Ottawa discussing the pipeline with government officials. Everyone I have talked to understands that this Arctic gas project is very important to both nations. It will provide significant economic benefits including the creation of thousands of good paying jobs. It will also provide a long overdue North American pipeline system that will deliver a clean source of energy from the North Slope."

"The U.S. Department of Labor awarded grants totaling \$14.5 million to the State of Alaska Department of Labor to prepare Alaska's workers for careers in the growing energy sector including natural gas pipelines. It is exciting to see the Canadian government and State of Alaska also doing what they can to ensure we have a trained workforce to get this pipeline built. There will be thousands of jobs created by this project; we need to be ready to take advantage of each one of them."

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