

Prince Rupert terminal is a go

By Brian Lewis
Business Editor

The Port of Prince Rupert expects to announce its partner in building northern B.C.'s first container terminal within 60 days — and it'll proceed even if the \$1-billion sale of BC Rail to CN Rail is turned down by the federal Competition Bureau.

"Failure of the CN Rail-BC Rail deal to go through may slow us down but it's not going to knock our project off the rails," Prince Rupert Port Authority CEO Don Krusel said yesterday in an interview.

The authority is now in detailed talks with a single global container-terminal operator following a Request for Proposals last year. The terminal would have a capacity of about 400,000 TEU's (twenty-foot-equivalent units) which is roughly the

same size as a terminal such as Centerm in the Port of Vancouver, he added.

"A container port will attract manufacturers to build in B.C.'s north," Krusel also said. "In fact, we've already being contacted by some of them."

CN Rail chief executive Hunter Harrison said in Montreal yesterday that the container port in Prince Rupert will provide a "big boost" to CN's traffic. But CN's \$15-million investment to upgrade its mainline between Edmonton and Prince Rupert to accommodate double-stacked containers is contingent on the Competition Bureau approving its purchase of BC Rail.

Containers from Asia can be shipped through Prince Rupert 1.5 days faster than through any other West Coast port.

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