UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA TRANSPORT INSTITUTE
SPEAKERS’ SERIES

RAIL IN CIRCUMPOLAR AND THIN MARKETS: OPPORTUNITIES OR NON-STARTER?

AI PHILLIPS

A.J. Phillips & Associates
Transport Institute, University of Manitoba, Canada

Date: Mar 14, 2017 (Tue), Time: 1:00 p.m., Venue: Drake 530

Synopsis: On a tonne-kilometer basis, rail can be the cheapest and most fuel-efficient land-based transportation mode. However, there are prerequisites for rail to fully capture those advantages. The speaker will provide an overview of some current northern and remote rail operations and the markets served. He will address the significant technological challenges to northern and remote rail infrastructure and operations, and then discuss technical versus economic feasibility. Shifting to Manitoba’s northern tidewater access, the effects of climate change on global supply chains, and of changing transportation policies, will underscore that the rules may have changed for maximizing Manitoba’s unique supply chain opportunities.

Speaker’s Biography: Al Phillips is a Partner in A.J. Phillips & Associates, a Winnipeg-based consulting firm. Formerly, he was a Senior Research Associate of the University of Manitoba Transport Institute (UMTI), and he currently maintains those links as an Associate of UMTI. His current research focus is on northern supply chains and the costs of resupply to isolated northern communities. He has co-authored reports on behalf of Transport Canada which assessed the adaptability of Canada’s transportation infrastructure in response to climate change, and reviewed the feasibility of rail technology transfer in harsh and evolving environments.

For further enquiries, please contact: umti@umanitoba.ca

ALL ARE WELCOME!!