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TEN YEARS LATER

NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

A REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES
APRIL 1, 1973 - MARCH 31, 1983



Alberta
NORTHERN ALBERTA
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

The Northern Alberta Development Council was created to give special attention to the development potentials of northern Alberta. Particularly since its re-establishment in the fall of 1973, the Council has dedicated itself to increasing the amount of public participation in the planning and design of delivery systems for government services in northern Alberta.

The current members of the Council felt that it was timely to provide government and the citizens of northern Alberta with a review of activities over the past ten years. It is hoped that the following pages give some idea of the interests and concerns which the Council has pursued from 1973-1983.

HISTORY

The Northern Alberta Development Council had its origin in 1963 as a result of the recommendations of the 1958 Royal Commission on the Development of Northern Alberta, chaired by J.G. MacGregor.

The Council was originally composed of five members. During the 1965-70 period, some \$21 million was expended on "priority projects". The funds were intended to be an additional investment in the north. However, as the special Council funding program progressed, there were indications that regular department funds were being held back on the expectation that the department could later fund these programs through the Northern Alberta Development Council. Thus this method of incremental funding became somewhat suspect.

After much deliberation the new administration following the 1971 election decided to reconstitute the Northern Alberta Development Council as an advisory body to government without any line department delivery capability or special funds.

In early 1973, Honourable J.A. "Boomer" Adair, Minister without Portfolio responsible for Northern Development and Indian/Metis Liaison, and the new Chairman of the reconstituted Northern Alberta Development Council, began to solicit nominees from all walks of life in northern Alberta to sit on the new Council.

NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, 1973-83

During the 1973-83 period the Northern Alberta Development Council dedicated itself to increasing the dialogue and flow of information between the provincial government and citizens of northern Alberta. It has attempted to do this in two ways: by holding frequent, well advertised public meetings in various locations in the north to hear briefs from northern people and obtain answers to their questions; and by acting as a northern advisory body to government through the development of policy and program recommendations for the Provincial Government.

The Council has also attempted to increase dialogue by holding conferences and seminars, directing original research into unique problems, and compiling and distributing relevant publications. The Council has also undertaken several multi-faceted activities to support its efforts in northern Alberta, including the design of the Northern Alberta Development Council Student Bursary Program, the advisory role in development and implementation of the Alberta North Agreements, interchange trips with the Territorial Councils of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, and participation in the annual interprovincial meetings of the Ministers Responsible for Northern Development.

The Council, since it consists of northern residents, sees things through northern eyes, and has attempted to supply government with a northern point of view on a wide range of issues, supplementing and complementing the perspectives of the northern MLAs. The present Council defines as its purpose:

To help the Provincial Government and northern Members of the Legislative Assembly plan for the future of Alberta's north and its people, by acting as an advisory body to the Minister responsible for Northern Development; and through him, assist in the investigation, planning, promotion and coordination of practical measures to foster and advance development in northern Alberta.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP, 1973-1983

The members of the Northern Alberta Development Council, in alphabetical order, have included:

Hon. Al "Boomer" Adair
MLA Peace River, Sportscaster
Chairman, 1973-1975
Minister Responsible, 1979-Present

Elmer Borstad
MLA Grande Prairie, Businessman
1978-79
Chairman, 1979-82

Larry Chorney
Fairview, Municipal Administrator
1976-79

Bertha Clark
Fort McMurray, Native Leader
1973-76

Chief Joe Dion
Kehewin, Farmer
1976-77

Hon. Bob Dowling
MLA Edson, Druggist
Chairman, 1975-79

John Drobot
St. Paul, Farmer (later MLA St. Paul)
1978-80

Bob Duncan
Fort McMurray, Company Executive
Vice-Chairman, 1973-77

Bob Elliott
MLA Grande Prairie, Agronomist
1982-Present

Peter Erasmus
McRae, Farmer
1981-Present

Jim Fletcher
Peace River/Grande Prairie, Accountant
1973-77

Barrie Fraser
St. Paul, Businessman
1981-82

Wally Holowack
Grande Cache, Businessman
1980-83

Christina Jones
McLennan, Administrator
1981-Present

Jim Kincaid
La Crete/Fairview, Farmer/Student
1980-82

Josephine Langevin
Lac La Biche, Businesswoman
1976-80

Romeo Lauzon
La Corey, Farmer
1980-82

Ike Lawrence
High Prairie, Automotive Dealer
1973-77
Vice-Chairman, 1978-80

Barry Lazoruk
Rycroft, Accountant
1980-83
Vice-Chairman, 1983-Present

Jim May
Grande Prairie, Company Executive
1979-81

Joanne Mitchell
High Level, Businesswoman
1982-Present

Joe Molho
Swan Hills, Oil Servicing Contractor
1983-Present

Bill Napier
High Level/Peace River, Company Executive
1973-75

Dennis Olson
Fort Vermilion, Teacher
1975-76

Len Pelland, Jr.
McLennan, Electrical Contractor
1973-77

John Porozni
Willingdon, Farmer
1975-76

Hon. Larry Shaben
MLA Lesser Slave Lake, Businessman
1975-79

Henry Sinclair
Slave Lake, Logging Contractor
1978-80
Vice-Chairman, 1980-81

Stan Smith
Fort Vermilion, Fuel Distributor
1976-80

Mariella Sneddon
Fort McMurray, Employment Counsellor
1978-80

Hon. Ralph Steinhauer
Saddle Lake, Farmer
(later Lt. Governor of Alberta)
1973-74

Rod Todd
Cold Lake, Lawyer
1983-Present

Dick Upham
Ashmont, Farmer
1981-Present

Norm Weiss
MLA Lac La Biche/McMurray, Businessman
1979-82
Chairman, 1982-Present

Barbara Wilkinson, R.N.
Athabasca
1980-81
Vice-Chairman, 1981-83

Victor Young
Whitecourt, Postmaster
1982-Present

NORTHERN MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The members of the Legislative Assembly from northern Alberta are the citizens' direct voice in government and the Northern Alberta Development Council strongly envisions its role as supplementing and complementing that representation.

MLAs are always invited to sit with the Council when public meetings are held in their constituency and Council keeps the various northern MLAs advised of the progress of briefs submitted from their respective areas. The minutes of Council meetings are also widely circulated to northern MLAs, Cabinet Ministers and departmental personnel. Many northern MLAs discuss responses to needs expressed in their areas with Council and Council's support staff, and Council's program and policy advice to Cabinet often receives prior consultation and comment from northern MLAs either directly or through the Chairman. Northern MLAs and Cabinet members are also prominent participants in Council seminars and conferences.

Members of the Legislative Assembly representing areas within the Northern Alberta Development Council boundary during the period under review were:

Hon. J.A. Adair
MLA Peace River,
Minister of Northern Development
and Indian/Metis Liaison;
Recreation, Parks and Wildlife;
Tourism & Small Business.

Dr. C.E. Anderson
MLA St. Paul, 1975-79

F.P. Appleby
MLA Athabasca,
Deputy Speaker

Hon. Dr. W.O. Backus
MLA Grande Prairie to 1979,
Minister of Public Works.

D. Barton
MLA Lesser Slave Lake to 1975

E.E. Borstad
MLA Grande Prairie, 1979-82

Dr. D. Bouvier
MLA Lac La Biche/McMurray to 1975

Hon. R.W. Dowling
MLA Edson to 1979,
Minister of Tourism;
Consumer & Corporate Affairs;
Business Development & Tourism.

J. Drobot
MLA St. Paul since 1982

Dr. C.R. Elliott
MLA Grande Prairie since 1982

A.I. Fluker
MLA St. Paul to 1975

D.A. Hansen
MLA Bonnyville to 1979

Hon. Dr. H.M. Horner
MLA Barrhead to 1979,
Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture;
Transportation; Economic Development.

Hon. E.D. Isley
MLA Bonnyville since 1979,
Minister of Manpower

K.R. Kowalski
MLA Barrhead since 1979

Hon. M.E. Moore
MLA Smoky River,
Minister of Agriculture;
Municipal Affairs; Transportation.

W.G. Notley
MLA Spirit River/Fairview

I.C. Reid
MLA Edson since 1979

Hon. L.R. Shaben
MLA Lesser Slave Lake, since 1975
Minister of Utilities & Telephones; Housing.

R.J. Tesolin
MLA Lac La Biche/McMurray 1975 to 1979

Hon. P. Trynchy
MLA Whitecourt,
Minister of Recreation & Parks

N.A. Weiss
MLA Lac La Biche/McMurray since 1979.

COUNCIL MEETINGS, 1973-83

From April 1, 1973, to March 31, 1983 the Northern Alberta Development Council held 116 regular monthly meetings at various locations in northern Alberta. The meetings have generally taken two forms:

- (a) Open public meetings in the evening, followed by a closed Council discussion the next day;
- (b) All-day closed sessions.

The 55 public meetings for receipt of briefs were held in:

High Prairie (2)	Grande Cache (2)	Bonnyville	Wandering River
Fort McMurray (3)	Valleyview	Rainbow Lake	Whitecourt
High Level (2)	Athabasca (2)	Trout Lake	Grand Centre
St. Paul (2)	Spirit River	Kinuso	Rycroft
Falher (2)	Wabasca-Desmarais (2)	Kikino	Peace River
Slave Lake (2)	Fort Vermilion	Grimshaw	Hines Creek
Grande Prairie	Elk Point	Sexsmith	Fox Creek
Fort Chipewyan (2)	Swan Hills	Anzac	Wembley
Lac La Biche (2)	Fairview	Boyle	Fort Kent
McLennan	Grouard	Beaverlodge	
Manning (2)	Hythe	Smith	

BRIEFS

In the ten years, some 920 briefs were received from northern individuals, communities and organizations, identifying over 1,300 individual issues. The briefs covered a broad range of topics from simple tape-cutting exercises to requests for massive investment in roads, parks, lake stabilization, etc. Council spent considerable effort to achieve action on all of the ideas and topics of concern, and ensured that every brief was responded to in some satisfactory manner.

ANALYSIS OF BRIEFS

An in-depth analysis of briefs received by the Northern Alberta Development Council was undertaken covering the period up to December 31, 1981. The analysis showed that the volume of briefs received per year was fairly constant, with an average of 14 briefs per meeting. The following charts provide additional information.

BRIEF ORIGINATORS	
Community Groups	45%
Municipalities	21%
Agencies	16%
Individuals	10%
Businesses	5%
Other	3%

BRIEFS BY REGION	
Athabasca/Bonnyville	25%
Lesser Slave Lake	23%
Grande Prairie/Peace River	20%
Manning/High Level	14%
Fort McMurray/Fort Chipewyan	9%
Grande Cache/Whitecourt	5%
Outside Boundary Area	4%

BRIEFS BY TOPIC AREA	
Transportation	22%
Utilities, Water & Sewer	11%
Health, Hospitals, Social Services	11%
Recreation, Parks, Tourism	10%
Economic Development	8%
Education	7%
Municipal Government, Community Planning	5%
Agriculture	3%
Land Use, Leases	3%
Housing	3%
Culture, Historic Sites	3%
Colleges, Training	3%
Others	11%

BRIEF FOLLOW-UP	
REFERENCE/CIRCULATION	
• information exchange and/or direct follow-up by the relevant government department.	67%
RECOMMENDATIONS/SUPPORT	
• policy advice to departments, Minister or Cabinet.	15%
RESEARCH/LIAISON	
• extensive background investigation and/or liaison activities with interested parties.	14%
FUNDING	
• arranging of budgetary adjustments or gap funding in special cases.	5%

BRIEF STATUS AFTER FOLLOW-UP	
PAT	60%
UC	11%
R	29%
PAT — positive action taken which wholly or partially solved the concerns expressed.	
UC — under consideration by Government departments.	
R — refusal or no action taken, due to program constraints or unreasonable request.	

The initial response to the briefs shortly after presentation showed 32% PAT, 38% UC and 30% R. Therefore, over time, many of the UC tended to move into the PAT category when government budget allocations or program priorities allowed, while the R remained constant.

Of the many issues submitted to various departments and agencies of government, an average PAT of 60% was achieved. Given the wide range and complexity of requests submitted by northern citizens, and the fact that some briefs are still under consideration, achieving positive results in nearly two-thirds of the briefs referred to government departments is deemed very satisfactory by the Northern Alberta Development Council.

PROGRAM MONITORING AND POLICY ADVICE

As a result of the Council's activities review meeting with Premier Lougheed on June 19, 1975, considerable time has been spent attempting to move from the specifics of the briefs received to general policy recommendations to help alleviate the concerns expressed.

Since that time, Council has directed more of its energy towards its advisory role, both in the form of recommendations to the Provincial Cabinet, and in the form of advice to other bodies and agencies, such as with regard to the Alberta North Agreements.

As part of this policy advisory role the Council produced the following public position papers/discussion documents:

GOALS FOR PROGRAMS, 1975	ADULT EDUCATION & TRAINING IN NORTHERN ALBERTA, 1982
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN ALBERTA, 1977	GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH IN NORTHERN ALBERTA, 1982
AGRICULTURE IN NORTHERN ALBERTA, 1978	COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT HANDBOOK, 1982
FISHING IN NORTHERN ALBERTA, 1979	PROFILES OF REGIONS & SMALLER COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN ALBERTA, 1983
HEALTH NEEDS IN NORTHERN ALBERTA, 1980	ALCOHOLISM: STRATEGIES FOR NORTHERN ALBERTA, 1983
INVENTORY OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR NORTHERN COMMUNITIES, 1980	
TRENDS IN NORTHERN ALBERTA, 1980	
SOCIO-ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF NORTHERN ALBERTA, 1981	

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

During the period under review, the Northern Alberta Development Council sponsored or produced a number of information papers, background reports, field inventories, statistical analyses, and advisory documents as a result of the public meeting process or as a result of departmental, Ministerial or Cabinet Committee requests. A list of some of this research is noted below:

Economic & Resource Development

- Wood Buffalo National Park
- Development of Granite Deposits at Fort Chipewyan (Phases I & II)
- Trout Rearing & Processing in Grande Cache
- Developing a Game Ranch on the Kikino-Caslan Metis Settlement
- Review of Alberta Fur Trapping Industry
- Dunvegan Hydro-Electricity Development Project
- Overview of Market Potential for Poplar Lumber
- Profile of Part-Time Farmers in Northern Alberta
- Community Economic & Employment Survey
- Cold Lake Business Survey
- Berland/Fox Creek Forestry Proposals
- Barriers to Native Employment
- Economic Growth in Lower Peace Sub-Region
- Canada/Alberta North Agreement Assessment
- Cold Lake Beachfront Development

Impact of Development

- Impact of Major Resource Projects in North East Alberta
- Resource Development and Human Impact
- Cold Lake Regional Baseline Study (Phases I & II)
- Survey of Social Impact in Peace River Region
- Smith: An Assessment
- Grande Prairie Community Growth Study
- Grande Cache Community Growth Study
- Slave Lake Community Growth Study
- Athabasca Community Growth Study
- Swan Hills Community Growth Study
- Survey of Fort McMurray Regarding Alsands Decision

Infrastructure

- Transportation & Communication Services in Northern Alberta
- Local Government Organization in Northern Alberta
- Northern Transportation Study
- Northern Housing Review
- Study of Municipal Infrastructure with Reference to Northern Alberta
- Survey of Metis Settlements
- Technical Feasibility of Extending Television Services in Northern Alberta
- Paving the Mackenzie Highway
- Water & Sewer in Northern Alberta
- Fire Prevention in Northern Alberta

Social & Education Studies

- Overview of Debt Financing in Northern Alberta
- Language Policy & Indian Education
- Population: Socio-Economic Factors
- Victor Lake Cooperative Handbook
- Native Migration Patterns
- Training Programs Available to Native People in Northern Alberta
- Day Care in Northern Alberta
- Native Friendship Centres in Northern Alberta
- Evaluation of N.A.D.C. Bursary Program
- Vocational Education in I.D. 23
- Projection of Highly Qualified Manpower Requirements in Northern Alberta
- Cost of Living in Northern Alberta
- Labour Force Turnover in Northern Alberta
- Population Figures and Age Cohorts in Northern Alberta
- Elderly Care in Northern Alberta

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

The Northern Alberta Development Council was also successful in arranging for special gap funding to assist a number of community and economic development initiatives. Among the supported projects were the following:

High Level Action North Recovery Centre
Lac La Biche Fish Co-op Plant
Savanna Townsite Committee
New Dawn Housing
Alberta Trappers Magazine
Project Ironstar
Fort McMurray Alternative Education Society
Fort Chipewyan Archeological Project
Grande Cache Native Area Committee
Bonnyville Dove Centre
Metis Settlements Local Government Project
Kikino Community Centre
Beaver Lake Parka Manufacturing
Northwest Fish Co-op Plant
Anzac Community Centre

Lesser Slave Lake Television Society
I.D. 23 Seed Cleaning Plant
Fort McKay Red River Point Society
St. Paul Habitat Enterprises
Lac La Biche Day Care Society
Fort Chipewyan Fishermen's Association
Plamondon Camp 3F
Calling Lake Information Centre
Lakeland Agricultural Research Project
Bonnyville Day Care Society
Lac La Biche Swine Supplement Project
Manning Television Society
C.E.S.O. Summer Youth Program
National Northern Development Conference
Human Side of Energy Conference

CONFERENCES

During 1973-83, the Council sponsored the following major events:

Opportunity North Conference
November 26-29, 1975 — Peace River

Northern Transportation Seminar
December 8-10, 1976 — Grande Prairie

Yukon/Northwest Territories
Interchange August 16-19, 1977

Interprovincial Meeting of
Northern Ministers
September 27-29, 1978 — Fort McMurray

Agriculture North Seminar
November 22-24, 1978 — Peace River

Health Needs in Northern Alberta Workshop
February 5-8, 1980 — St. Paul

Alberta North in the '80s Conference
November 20-22, 1980 — Grande Prairie

Northern Transportation Review
April 19/May 27, 1981 — Fairview/Bonnyville

Research Review Seminar
June 16-18, 1981 — Peace River

Adult Education & Training
in Northern Alberta Workshop
June 21-23, 1982 — Athabasca

Workshop on Alcoholism: Strategies for
Northern Alberta
January 17-19, 1983 — Grand Centre

ALBERTA NORTH SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENTS

In early 1974, Canada and Alberta signed a General Development Agreement (GDA) which established a broad framework for the planning and implementation of policies and programs to foster economic and socio-economic development in Alberta. One of the first subsidiary agreements signed under the GDA was the Interim Alberta North Agreement.

The Interim Agreement (April 1, 1974 - March 31, 1978) was followed by a long-term Agreement signed on February 8, 1978 in Fort Vermilion. The second Agreement covered the period from April 1, 1978 to March 31, 1983.

The Northern Alberta Development Council played a significant advisory role in the design of both the Interim and long-term Agreements. Council public meetings were also used as sounding boards for "grass roots" input into various phases of Agreement administration.

Interim Alberta North Agreement, 1974-78

The Interim Agreement saw the cost-sharing of \$14.7 million of specifically designated northern Alberta projects. DREE provided 50% of the funding for provincially designed, budgeted and implemented programs which met the mutually agreed upon objectives of the Alberta North Agreement.

Cost-shared projects were implemented under five programs:

- Life Improvement
- Community Services
- Planning and Management
- Community Extension
- Community Economic Development

Alberta North Agreement, 1978-83

Under the terms of the follow-up Agreement, Alberta and DREE initiated cost-sharing for \$45 million worth of provincially administered projects in four program areas:

- Human Development
- Social Adjustment & Professional Development
- Community Services & Facilities
- Community Economic Development

A further \$10 million of projects were implemented on northern Indian reserves, funded by DREE and the Federal Department of Indian Affairs.

STUDENT BURSARY PROGRAM

Recognizing that the attraction and retention of professional services was a major problem across northern Alberta, the Council joined with the Students Finance Board in 1975 to create the Northern Alberta Development Council Student Bursary Program. The program offers students (who have been residents of Alberta for at least three years) special bursary benefits where the students demonstrate that they intend to apply their education, after completion, in northern Alberta. The student is expected to offer one year of service in northern Alberta for each year of bursary support received.

The Bursary Program is administered by a Selection Committee comprised of four Northern Alberta Development Councillors, and one representative each from the Metis Association of Alberta, Alberta Advanced Education and the Students Finance Board. The Committee may grant a single student up to \$3,500 per academic year, and married students or those with dependents, up to \$5,600 per academic year.

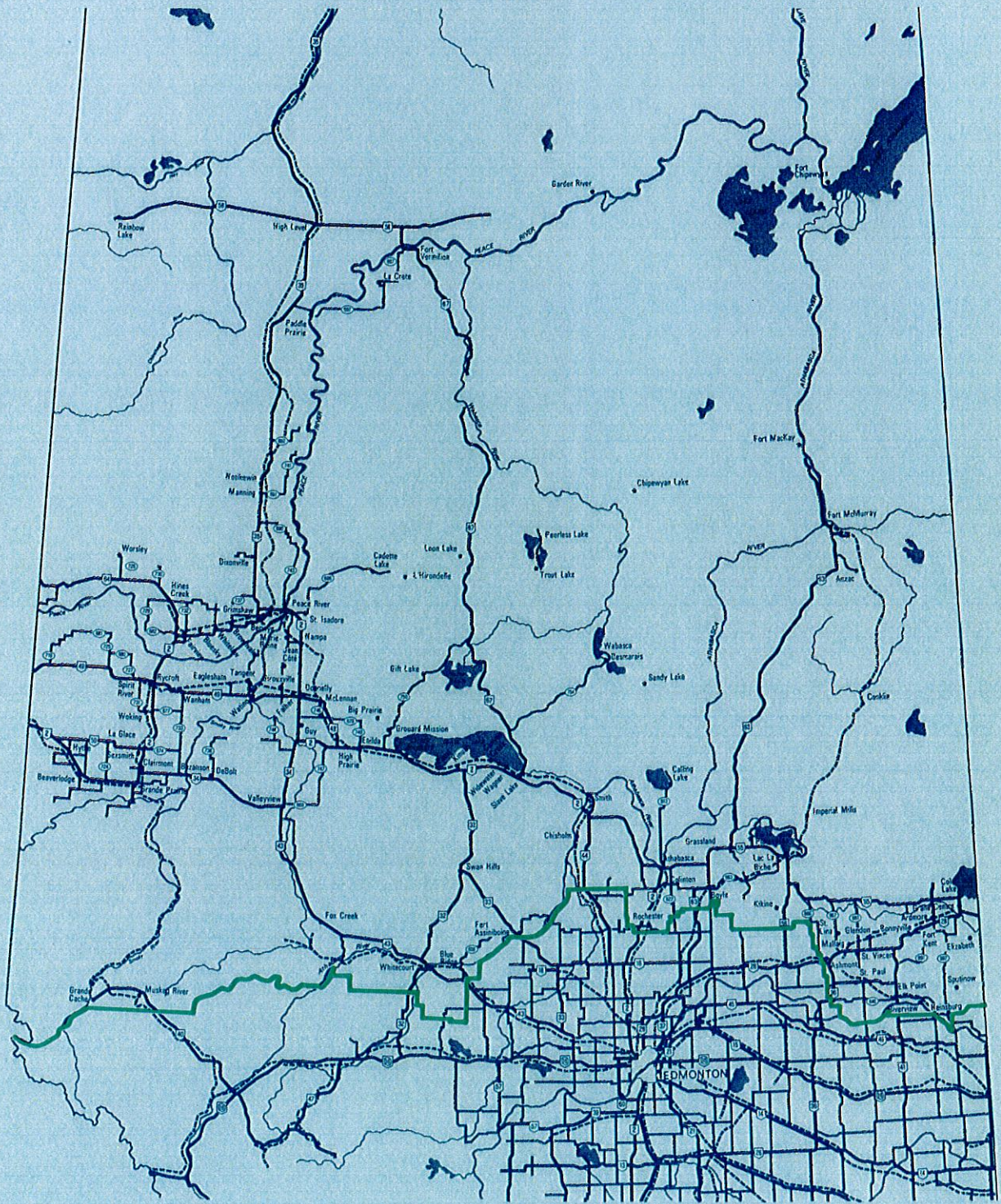
The following table summarizes the current status of the Bursary Program.

Agriculture		Medical	
A. Veterinary Medicine	20	M.D.	30
B. Other	12	Nursing	102
B.Sc.	28	Pharmacy	11
Business Education	64	Dentistry	27
B.A.	19	Other	37
Education	531	Social Work	44
Engineering	28	Other	122
Forestry	9		
Law	17	TOTAL	<u>1,101</u>

SUMMARY

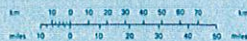
The Northern Alberta Development Council has undertaken to fulfill its mandate since 1973 by pursuing a wide variety of tasks. It is hoped the public participation mechanisms and program/policy advisory role have served the citizens of northern Alberta well.

The Council looks forward to future years of service on behalf of northern Albertans.



NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AREA

COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATION OVER 50 (1976 CANADA CENSUS)



PRIMARY HIGHWAY
 SECONDARY ROAD
 RAILWAY