

**Northern Alberta
Development Council**

**Annual Report
2002-2003**

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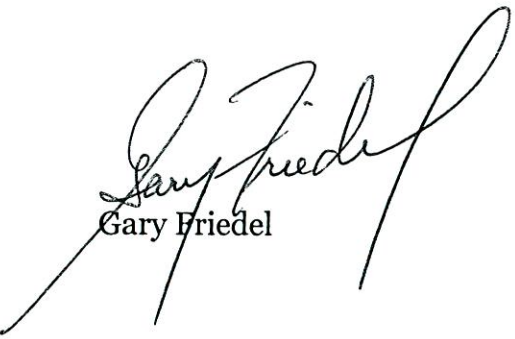
Message from the Chair

The Northern Alberta Development Council is pleased to present its Annual Report for 2002-2003. This past year has been an exciting one for Alberta's North and I'd like to highlight some of the Council's key achievements that contribute to the development of the North.

The Council focusses its efforts on the realization of opportunities to advance northern development, while addressing barriers that may affect development. During 2002-2003, the Council carried out initiatives in the following areas:

- the launch of "Opportunity North" - a recruitment campaign designed to assist northern employers recruit staff to Northern Alberta;
- increased involvement in interjurisdictional initiatives encouraging a cooperative approach to advancing development of the North; and
- increasing northern skill levels as a way to encourage northern participation in the economy.

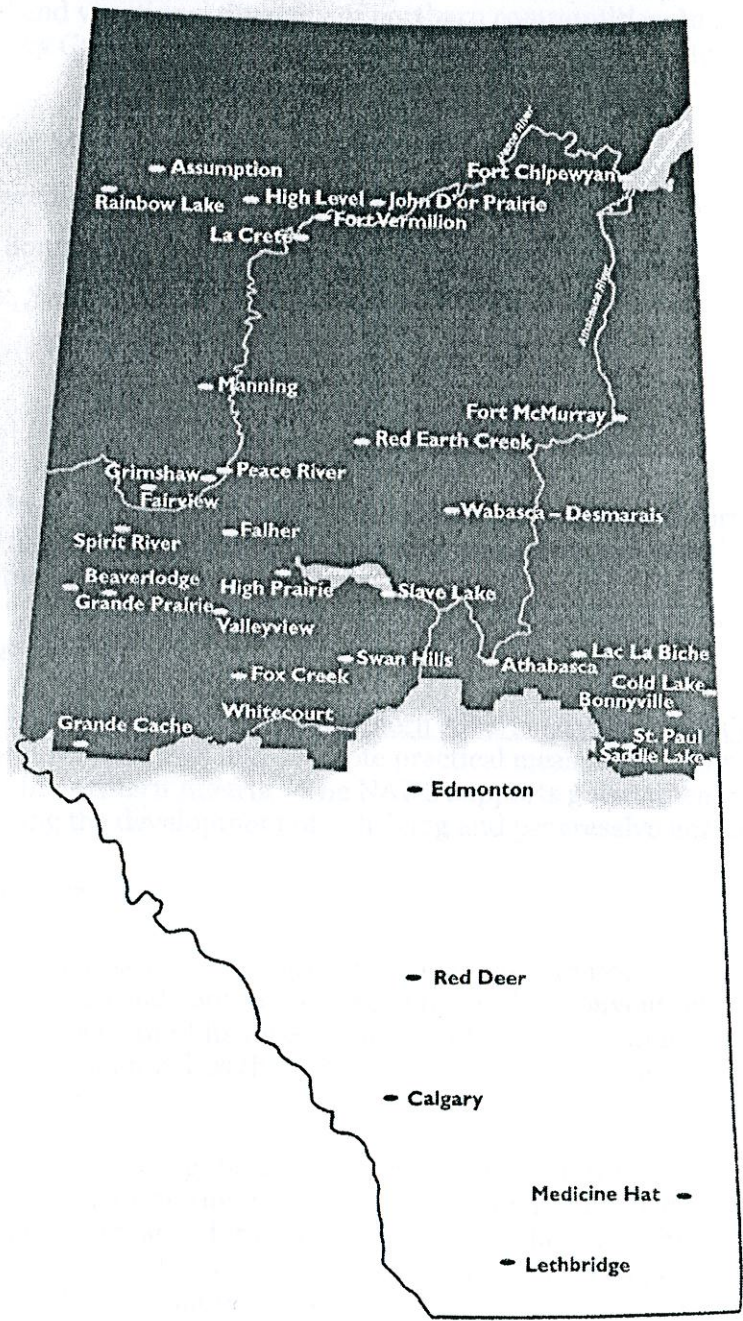
The Council remains committed to advancing northern development through our work with northern stakeholders, municipalities, communities, industry and neighboring jurisdictions. Together we will build a strong North.



Gary Friedel

Northern Alberta Development Council

The Development Council (NADC) consists of representatives from the Legislative Assembly of Alberta Council members



NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Operational Overview

The Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) consists of nine public members and one elected member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. Council membership reflects the geographic, cultural and vocational diversity of northern communities. In 2002-2003, the Council was chaired by Gary Friedel, the MLA for Peace River, and private Council members were:

Art Avery, Fort McMurray

Sandra Cardinal, Kikino

Doris Courtoreille, Kinuso

Berkley Ferguson, Athabasca

Ernie Isley, Bonnyville

Pete Merlo, Grande Prairie

Gary Pollock, Swan Hills

Michael Procter, Peace River

Al Toews, Fort Vermilion

Mission

The mission of the Northern Alberta Development Council is to advance northern development through regional initiatives in partnership with the private sector, community-based organizations and other government agencies.

Core Business

The mandate of the NADC, as set out in the Northern Alberta Development Council Act, is to “investigate, monitor, evaluate, plan and promote practical measures to foster and advance general development in northern Alberta.” The NADC supports government’s commitment to prosperity by facilitating the development of a thriving and progressive northern economy.

The NADC Region

Northern Alberta has a diverse resource base and is a key contributor to the economy with 100 percent of the Province’s oil sands production, 40 percent of its conventional oil and gas development activity, 90 percent of its forests, and about 20 percent of its agricultural land. Yet, the Region’s population is slightly less than 10 percent of Alberta’s total population, approximately 250,000 people.

Northern Alberta has tremendous potential for growth, but geographical factors such as distances to market and transportation costs, as well as other issues such as the increasing demand for skilled labour and lack of training, prevent a substantial portion of the population who live there from taking full advantage of the benefits from these opportunities. Diversification of the northern economy, investment in transportation and other infrastructure, and the development of community services will help address these barriers.

RESULTS ANALYSIS

GOAL 1: To establish priorities for northern opportunities, and increase awareness and support among government and key stakeholders for those priorities.

Northern Alberta Development Council members and staff engage northern stakeholders in discussions to identify opportunities, challenges and issues specific to Northern Alberta. These discussions are key to the NADC strategic planning process.

Profile the North

Northern Alberta opportunities and needs must be identified and profiled to key decision makers and investors. In order to meet its mission and mandate, the NADC is proactive in identifying emerging opportunities, trends and issues of importance to Northern Alberta, by using a number of approaches. Although there is considerable investment in portions of the region, challenges remain in addressing the impact of this investment on social and other infrastructure, the disparity of benefits between regions, the need for sustainable and value-added development, and the need to maximize northern benefits from development. The NADC is able to share and discuss information regarding the issues as well as to gain information through these approaches.

Northern Development Strategy

In discussion with northern Albertans, northern communities, industry and governments, the Northern Alberta Development Council, working with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, is working on the preparation of a draft Northern Development Strategy. This Strategy focuses on the coordination of resources to achieve northern development goals. It specifically proposes a cooperative approach to provincial strategies and initiatives related to building a sustainable and diverse northern economy. Such strategies include improving transportation, building northern community capacity, developing a skilled northern workforce, and forming partnerships to advance northern development.

Leaders' Roundtables

Throughout the year, the Northern Alberta Development Council meets with community and business leaders regarding northern development issues. In addition to these meetings, the NADC holds a series of regional Leaders' Roundtable meetings. This year, Roundtable meetings were held in Grande Prairie, St. Paul, Athabasca and Falher. These meetings provide northern leaders a chance to present issues or concerns to the NADC and to identify specific opportunities and/or barriers to development. Representatives from municipalities, Aboriginal groups, industry, business and community-based organizations come together with Council to discuss issues such as: transportation; value-added production opportunities; water management; regional cooperation; housing; and diversification of the northern economy. The meetings are an excellent forum for face-to-face discussion of priority issues facing Northern Alberta and afford all stakeholders the opportunity to contribute to possible suggestions for addressing those issues.

Meetings with Key Northern Stakeholders

In addition to the Leaders' Roundtable meetings, the Northern Alberta Development Council's members and staff meet with northern stakeholders during tours of Northern Alberta. During the past year, meetings regarding various northern development issues were held in Athabasca, Grande Prairie, St. Paul, High Prairie, High Level and Manning. The Council also met with key northern industries to discuss resource management, northern highway development and skill development issues. The purpose of these meetings is to communicate with private and public organizations that have an interest in northern development to get their input on priorities.

Challenge North Conference 2003

The Northern Alberta Development Council has planning well underway for the next Challenge North Conference to be held in Fort McMurray on April 9-11, 2003. The NADC hosts a major conference every three years to get input from northern stakeholders on strategic directions to advance development in the North. This year's Conference will feature speakers from the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Alaska who will present their perspectives on the influence of economics, relationships and other factors related to development.

Communication Strategy

Communications is an integral part of the work undertaken by the Northern Alberta Development Council. Through our communication with Northerners, the Council is able to determine priorities, identify opportunities to advance northern development and address challenges that may influence what is happening in the North.

The *Northern Developments* newsletter is produced quarterly and distributed to business, industry, municipal, Aboriginal, and community contacts across the Northern Alberta Development Council area. The newsletter provides updates on NADC projects, activities and meetings, and reviews any issues facing Northern Albertans.

The NADC also produces a more frequent, bi-monthly update for Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta that represent constituencies located within the NADC area. This update is designed to provide additional background on NADC projects and partnership initiatives to ensure Northern MLAs are aware of activities on a timely basis. There is on-going contact throughout the year with Northern MLAs, and once a year, the Council members sit down with all of the Northern Alberta MLAs for an open discussion of opportunities and issues.

The Northern Alberta Development Council website, www3.gov.ab.ca/nadc, contains newsletters, news releases, reports and statistics, as well as information on NADC bursary programs, the Northern Links program and upcoming events.

Northern Initiatives

The Northern Alberta Development Council actively seeks partnerships with northern organizations to develop solutions appropriate for northern conditions. Following are the highlights of initiatives undertaken to address northern priorities.

Housing: The Northern Alberta Development Council provided input to Alberta Seniors on potential northern-based programs, and moderated and assisted with the High Level Housing Symposium. This Symposium led to increased investment in housing in the Region.

Forestry: The Northern Alberta Development Council continues to participate in an inter-departmental initiative monitoring the impact of tariffs on softwood lumber exports to the United States. The NADC also provides non-financial support to four Forest Education Societies based in Northern Alberta.

Value-Added Agriculture: The Northern Alberta Development Council continues to work with its many partners in the Peace Agriculture Value-Added Strategy working group on a long-term developmental initiative. This project focuses on an awareness and promotion strategy related to the value-added agriculture initiative (processing and diversification) in the Alberta and British Columbia Peace Region.

The outcomes of this project will raise awareness among regional entrepreneurs, investors and communities, of the Peace Region's comparative advantages and the benefits and opportunities of adding value to agricultural production. The goals of this strategy are to: develop a stronger agriculture industry in the Region; provide direction to commodity-based organizations and entrepreneurs to develop value-added opportunities; and to improve the sustainability of rural communities. It is a crucial first step in the long-term process of building a mature, self-sustaining value-added agriculture industry.

The NADC also works with the Alberta New Crops Network on northern-based research projects to identify specific crops that would be more successful in the North and develop global marketing strategies.

Recycling: The Northern Alberta Development Council continues with their assistance to the Northern Coordinated Action for Recycling Enterprises (Northern CARE). The NADC assisted with the planning and organization of Northern CARE's annual workshop held in Athabasca in September 2002, as well as a review of Northern CARE's Business Plan and organizational strategy. The NADC continues to work with municipal governments, industries and community organizations on activities that will advance the economic development opportunities associated with recycling in northern Alberta.

Tourism: The Northern Alberta Development Council continues to provide support to the northern tourism industry through Board participation with the Alberta North Tourism Destination Region. The NADC serves in an advisory role with Alberta North and uses that organization's close relationships with northern tourism operators and organizations to guide our role in northern tourism industry development.

The NADC's follow-up work is focused in the priority areas of product development, industry training and encouraging coordinated support for service delivery to the northern tourism industry. In 2002-2003, the NADC served as an Executive Board member, while increasing its participation with the marketing committee. A focus for the future will be to increase the Aboriginal component of future Northern Alberta tourism initiatives.

The NADC Chairs, and provides organizational, administrative and technical support to the Deh Cho Travel Connection group, an inter-jurisdictional tourism marketing society, involving the Northwest Territories, Northeastern British Columbia and Northern Alberta. The Group's work focuses on the promotion of the circle tour route located in these regions.

As Chair of the Deh Cho Travel Connection, the NADC is responsible for the communication and administrative functions of the Group. It has made strides in terms of the level of participation in the group and its overall effectiveness. The NADC is also an active participant on the Group's marketing and administrative committees. The full Group met two times in 2002-2003 in Northern Alberta, and the Northwest Territories. The Group developed a business/marketing plan, distributed the circle tour brochure, planned the development of the website, and attended three consumer shows to promote this interjurisdictional initiative, as well as provided several presentations to tourism stakeholders.

The NADC reported on tourism developments to the Co-Chairs of the Alberta-Northwest Territories Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Development. Staff worked on projects related to increasing "fly-drive" traffic and improving tourism highway signage.

The NADC participated on the Northern Alberta Tourism Research Centre Project steering committee with regional economic development and tourism stakeholders to plan and develop a tourism research centre in Northern Alberta.

Resource Development: The Northern Alberta Development Council continued to monitor activity in the mining sector and the oil sands sector.

Recruitment and Retention of Northern Labour: A major initiative during 2002-03 was the development and launch of the "Opportunity North" recruitment campaign—including a website (www.opportunitynorth.ca), an interactive CD-ROM, and brochures. The Opportunity North initiative is intended to assist northern employers to recruit staff to Northern Alberta. The campaign was announced at the Northern Focus Human Resources Management Conference, which was organized by the Council and held in Fort McMurray in October 2002. Around 30 employers are currently using the materials and a range of other organizations include Opportunity North materials in their promotional packages.

The Northern Alberta Development Council provided information for a National Recruitment and Retention Directory of Best Practices. This initiative was completed under the direction of the Northern Development Ministers' Forum. An expanded inventory will be completed in the upcoming year.

The NADC also provides organizational support to the Northern Distance Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Planning Circle and the Northern BSW Council of Stakeholders. Through the direction of these groups, a Northern Alberta Social Work Education Summit was held in Slave Lake in February 2003. It was an excellent opportunity for participants to learn about social work employment trends and education opportunities in Northern Alberta. Close to 50 employers, students, educators and others participated in the event.

Transportation: Transportation issues continue to be of major concern to Northern Albertans. In partnership with the County of Grande Prairie No. 1 and Alberta Economic Development, a consultant was commissioned to prepare a background report on the potential to re-open the Hythe to Dawson Creek rail line. An advisory group included representatives from the County of Grande Prairie No. 1, Saskatoon Mountain Economic Development Authority, the Northwest Corridor Development Corporation and Alberta RailNet. This report lead to the development of a strategy to seek funding for upgrading the line and further follow-up will continue into the next fiscal year.

Under the direction of the NADC, a report on Peace River Access to Container Transportation was prepared. The report shows that there is a considerable tonnage of product currently shipped by containers. However, there are a number of challenges that must be addressed to increase access to containers in the Peace Region. Work on this issue is continuing.

Northern aviation and airports issues continue to be raised to the attention of the NADC. Issues include: the high cost of providing airport emergency services as required by Federal Regulations; and the controversy over scheduled flights using the Edmonton City Centre Airport. The NADC has met with representatives of the Edmonton Regional Airports Authority regarding the Edmonton City Centre Airport. Northern concerns regarding Federal Regulations have been presented to Transport Canada.

The Northern Alberta Development Council, in cooperation with northern municipalities and industry, has prepared a proposed strategy for the funding of northern highways that relates to the implementation of the Northwestern Canada Integrated Road Concept Plan. In 1998, the Western Premiers adopted this plan, which provided a vision for the long-term integration of highways. The proposal is based on the use of special, one-time funding, not the use of Alberta Transportation's annual budget and/or committed project funding. Efforts continue on advancing the Northern Alberta Highways Strategy.

Telecommunications and Infrastructure: The Alberta SuperNet project has been initiated and the NADC continues to monitor rollout of the Program.

Water Management: The Northern Alberta Development Council has been involved with municipalities in the central northeast area of Alberta to promote the Healthy Lake Project for Lac La Biche. Public meetings and education programs have been offered to educate the residents on the care and preservation of the environmental quality of the lake. A research report was completed in the winter of 2002 outlining the watershed area, historic value, water uses, and fishery and habitat protection for waterfowl and wildlife.

The NADC, in conjunction with Alberta Environment and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, conducted three Water Issues Workshops in Cold Lake, Ardmore and Athabasca. The draft Beaver River Basin Water Management Plan was introduced for public input at the Cold Lake and Ardmore meetings, as well as discussion about the establishment of Advisory Committees for the Alberta Environment Provincial Water Strategy. The meetings covered three priority areas: 1) to hear from delegates regarding issues relating to water in Northeast Alberta such as droughts, floods, water supply and quality, and interaction between water and economic development; 2) to inform delegates of related federal and provincial programs and policies; and 3) to take advantage of collaboration opportunities to address water issues.

The NADC also continued to facilitate discussions with its regional partners regarding the sustainability of water supplies in the Northwest Boreal Region of Alberta. A consultant was hired to conduct a consultation process to collect and analyse the views and opinions on water issues and programs of local governments and other water users throughout the region. This initiative helped to stimulate discussion on matters related to water availability, appropriateness of current water uses, and current water assistance programs.

Delegates at an NADC workshop discussed the report's recommendations, which included suggestions to:

- improve programs that address regional water supply issues;
- promote programs that will encourage the acquisition of good water and also responsible conservation of water sources including wetlands;
- safeguard the water resource by consistent application of applicable legislation;
- pay special attention to drought interval problems related to surface and groundwater depletion, as well as quality issues such as blue-green algae contamination, eutrophic lakes and stagnant rural sources;
- evaluate the practice of using potable surface water and groundwater for oil well injection;
- enhance education standards for water system operators to keep them current with new technologies and proper operation and maintenance of water instrumentation and infrastructure; and
- consider a 'needs' based assessment in addition to the population criteria. Undue municipal hardships can occur due to outdated infrastructure, low tax base, unexpected changes such as the Province's new drinking water standards, emergency situations (change in source, rapid growth, major developments, groundwater depletion, etc.)

In response to the *Water for Life* strategy coordinated by Alberta Environment to gather information on ways to help manage water issues, the NADC prepared a submission to the Minister of Environment on the proposed Strategy.

Opportunity Seminars: The Northern Alberta Development Council organized *Opportunities Seminars* in St. Paul and High Prairie during the past year. These Seminars brought industry, business and community leaders together to share information about small business assistance programs and services that can assist with development opportunities in Northern Alberta. More than sixty people gathered at each Seminar to hear about regional initiatives, exchange ideas and discuss ways to foster more local and regional development.

Delegates expressed their appreciation for the one-day seminar event, especially the opportunities to learn more about potential new economic development ideas brought forward through each presentation. Presenters included elected officials, as well as representatives from Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, National Research Council of Canada, Tire Recycling Management Association of Alberta, VECO Canada Ltd., Apeetogosan (Metis) Development Inc., The Innovation Network, Aboriginal Business Service Network, Metis Nation of Alberta Association, Travel Alberta, Lakeland Agriculture Research Association and La Chambre Economique de l'Alberta.

Ambulance Study

On behalf of the Town of Manning and Municipal District of Northern Lights, the Northern Alberta Development Council conducted a study of ambulance facilities in other communities and municipalities to determine the viability of having a joint facility between the Municipal District and the Town. Eighteen jurisdictions had some form of shared facility. Criteria for locating a facility included: closeness to hospital; financial savings; response times; service hours; and land availability. In addition, the NADC facilitated/chaired joint meetings between the Town and Municipal District on the issue.

Interjurisdictional Initiatives

Other northern regions share similar challenges and opportunities. Interjurisdictional initiatives allow the Northern Alberta Development Council to share information, discuss solutions and potential joint ventures, and strengthen its ability to respond to northern needs. The NADC works with other jurisdictions, as well as within the Region, to address barriers to economic growth, research information, and carry out strategic initiatives to promote emerging northern development opportunities.

The Northern Forum

The Northern Alberta Development Council supports the Minister in her role as the Northern American Vice-President for The Northern Forum, an international consortium representing twenty-five northern government jurisdictions from ten countries, including the Province of Alberta. Preparations are underway for the participation of Alberta in the 6th General Assembly of The Northern Forum to be held in St. Petersburg, Russia in April 2003.

The mandate of the organization is to promote cooperation and exchange information on northern-based socio-economic initiatives. The mission of The Northern Forum is to improve the quality of life for northern peoples by providing northern regional leaders a means to share their knowledge and experience in addressing common challenges; and to support sustainable development and the implementation of cooperative socio-economic initiatives. The NADC is the Province's Secretariat that supports Alberta's role as a member of The Northern Forum.

Alberta-Northwest Territories Memorandum of Understanding For Cooperation and Development

The Co-Chairs for the Alberta-Northwest Territories Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation and Development met in Yellowknife on December 6, 2002. The Memorandum of Understanding provides a framework for cooperation between the two jurisdictions.

The Co-Chairs for the Memorandum of Understanding, the Minister of Public Works and Services as well as Municipal and Community Affairs, for the Northwest Territories and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development for Alberta, adopted a three-year implementation plan for the Memorandum of Understanding. The Co-Chairs also reviewed the progress of various initiatives being undertaken under the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding in the following areas: transportation; tourism; skill development and education; and regional economic development. The NADC acts as the Alberta Secretariat for this Memorandum of Understanding.

Northwest Corridor Development Corporation

The Northern Alberta Development Council plays a key role in the activities of the Northwest Corridor Development Corporation, as the Province of Alberta's representative. The NADC provides input into projects and initiatives being coordinated by the Corporation.

Over the past year, the NADC has assisted the Corporation with the following: preparation of communication-related documents; review of the organization's business plan; development of papers related to various transportation issues; and the coordination of a study looking at agricultural land development potential. The NADC also played an active role in the Corporation's Annual Conference and General Meeting.

Northern Development Ministers' Forum

Northern Development Ministers from across Canada met in Peace River in September 2002 for their annual conference. The theme of this successful event was *Building The North*. During the Conference, the Ministers: adopted a three-year action plan, as proposed by Alberta; reviewed progress on three, adopted priority projects (Northern Awareness Enhancement Campaign, Strategic Investment in Northern Infrastructure and Best Practices in Northern Recruitment and Retention); and heard an initial presentation from Nunavut on a proposed priority project for 2003. There were also a number of presentations on specific projects being undertaken in various parts of Canada's North.

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, as well as the Chair of the NADC, attended the Conference as Alberta's official representatives. The NADC acts as the Alberta Secretariat for the Northern Development Ministers' Forum.

Working with Regional Groups

The Northern Alberta Development Council also participated in several regional working groups, providing input, feedback and support:

- **Northeast and Northwest Interdepartmental Groups**

The Northern Alberta Development Council participated and assisted in bringing together various provincial departments, organizations and associations located in central northeast and northwest Alberta to discuss common interests and how to collaborate on various issues such as: economic and social development; recruitment and retention; and staff training initiatives.

- **Employment and Education Training Committee Meetings**

The Northern Alberta Development Council participated in meetings with a group of organizations to coordinate training and education opportunities in Northeast Alberta. Challenges being addressed include affordable housing and transportation for adult students pursuing upgrading and post secondary education.

- **Regional Issues Working Group (RIWG) – Transportation Committee**

The Northern Alberta Development Council continues to meet with the RIWG Transportation Committee on a monthly basis to assist the oil sands developers with transportation infrastructure concerns, as well as the advancement of priorities.

- **Regional Roads Committee – Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo**

The Northern Alberta Development Council has participated in meetings with the Regional Roads Committee for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo in regards to a northeast road network to serve the Regional Municipality.

- **Lac La Biche/Lakeland County Interpretive Centre**

The Northern Alberta Development Council has participated in several meetings providing input, feedback and support regarding the development of an interpretive centre on the shores of Lac La Biche as both a tourist attraction and community amenity. Construction of this project is proposed to commence in the summer of 2003.

- **GROWTH (Grizzly Regional Economic Development Alliance)**
GROWTH's purpose is to develop economic opportunities of mutual interest for community members. They have formally registered their organization, developed a business plan and marketing plan, and are exploring investment opportunities. The Northern Alberta Development Council has assisted by providing non-financial support.

- **Canadian Circumpolar Institute (CCI)**
The Northern Alberta Development Council is a member of the Advisory Committee for the Canadian Circumpolar Institute. The Institute undertakes research work on northern regions across the world and is based at the University of Alberta. The NADC provides input into some of the initiatives being coordinated by the Institute.

Performance Measures for Goal 1

The performance measures for Goal 1 are intended to assess the effectiveness of the Northern Alberta Development Council's processes toward identifying northern opportunities and priorities, and increasing awareness and support among government and key stakeholders for those priorities.

Majority of delegates to the 2003 Challenge North Conference support the identified priorities.

The NADC hosts a major conference every three years to gather input from northern stakeholders. The 2003 Challenge North Conference took place in Fort McMurray in April 2003. Results are not yet available and will be reported in next year's Annual Report.

Participants in NADC processes state that these are an effective mechanism for input: achieve an average rating of 8 out of 10.

Seventy-two participants at the Leaders' Roundtables were asked to submit evaluations; 51 were received. Of the participants who expressed an opinion of the effectiveness of the meeting for sharing information and informing the NADC of development issues and opportunities, the average rating was 8.4 out of 10, which exceeded the target of 8 out of 10. The average rating for 2002 was 8.8.

NADC project partners and clients believe our project work promoted an opportunity or addressed a northern challenge: achieve an average rating of 8 out of 10.

An independent consultant conducted a random telephone survey of 99 of 141 identified project partners. The survey was conducted during May 2003, and covered fiscal year 2002-03. Results are reliable to within 5% at a 95% confidence interval.

Of the respondents who expressed an opinion, 96% believed the NADC's project work promoted an opportunity or addressed a barrier to northern development (2002 - 98%). Respondents were also asked to rate their level of satisfaction with NADC's "contribution to advancing northern interests" on a scale of 1 to 10 (1=very dissatisfied; 10=very satisfied). 95% of respondents rated their satisfaction at 6 or higher (2002 - 92%). The average rating was 8.4 (2002 - 8.1), which exceeded the target of 8 out of 10.

GOAL 2: To increase Northern skill levels.

The Northern Alberta Development Council offers bursary programs in cooperation with Alberta Learning to help increase skill levels in Northern Alberta.

Northern Alberta Development Council Bursary

The Northern Alberta Development Council Bursary is a \$3000 return service bursary (\$1500 for a half year of study). In the 2002-2003 year, 127 Alberta students were awarded a total of \$376,000 in bursaries. The emphasis in 2002-2003 was on Education and Technical programs, with a slightly reduced emphasis on Health Care programs.

Occupational Categories	# of Bursaries
Education	29
Engineering, Technical	27
Health Care, Nursing	19
Social Services	17
Natural Science, Environment	17
Humanities, Applied Arts	10
Business, Administration, Law	8
Total	127

Bursary Partnerships Program

Industry, small businesses and community organizations co-sponsor Bursary Partnerships with the Northern Alberta Development Council. In 2002-2003, 147 bursaries were awarded. Sponsors contributed \$210,000 and NADC provided matching dollars of \$153,500.

Type of Sponsor	# of Bursaries
Business/Industry	39
Community/Other Organizations	83
School Divisions/Colleges	25
Total	147

Northern Student Supplement

Northern Albertans with high financial need who are starting their post-secondary education can receive between \$500 and \$1500 in grant funding through the Northern Student Supplement. In 2002-2003, 532 students from across Northern Alberta in their first or second year of study received an average of \$1186.

Northern Labour Market Information Clearinghouse

Support was provided to the Northern Labour Market Information Clearinghouse—a joint initiative between the Northern Alberta Development Council and five Northern Alberta colleges. The Clearinghouse provided timely information on northern economic and employment trends, opportunities, as well as training needs. During 2002-03, nine reports were completed on current employment trends and training needs in Northern Alberta. Included in this research was a detailed study that investigated why students leave the North. The Clearinghouse also serves as a potential forum for further communication between the colleges.

Northern LINKS

The *Northern LINKS* program approved sixty-six projects in the 2002-2003 fiscal year. Types of projects included campus tours, peer support/role model, career fairs and mentorship programs. Mentorship programs received the highest rating.

One of the interesting opportunities presented to students this year was a workshop for the Grade 10 students of FG Miller High School in Elk Point. A consultant facilitated a workshop based on Sean Covey's book The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. The students reported that they found the workshop relevant and valuable as they learned how to be proactive, identify priorities and organize their time.

In March, *Northern LINKS* sponsored a series of workshops by Don Burnstick, a motivational speaker. While the workshops focused on very serious messages about the importance of finishing high school, they were presented in an encouraging, humorous way that the students related to. Workshops were held in Kinuso, High Prairie, Atikameg, Valleyview, Sturgeon lake, Manning, Paddle Prairie, High Level and Fort Vermilion.

Woodland Operations Learning Foundation (WOLF)

The Northern Alberta Development Council acts as an advisor to WOLF, a not-for-profit organization with a mandate to provide forest industry training in Northern Alberta. To date, WOLF has established one training course.

Northern Alberta Human Resources Management Conference 2002

The Northern Alberta Development Council assisted the Wood Buffalo Human Resource Management Committee to organize and plan the Northern Focus Human Resource Management Conference held in Fort McMurray on October 21, 22 and 23, 2002. One hundred and forty (140) delegates attended to obtain information regarding recruitment, retention and training to attract employees in Northern Alberta.

Youth Apprenticeship Program

The Northern Alberta Development Council, with assistance from Alberta Learning, conducted a feasibility study for the purpose of investigating the potential implementation of the Youth Apprenticeship Program to promote northern apprenticeship training. Alberta Learning announced in February 2003 that the Youth Apprenticeship Training Program will be introduced at the Grade Seven level in three pilot communities, Lac La Biche, Wabasaca and High Prairie in the 2003/2004 school year.

Performance Measures for Goal 2

Goal 2 performance measures are intended to assess the effectiveness of the Northern Alberta Development Council bursary and Northern LINKS programs. These programs contribute to increased skill levels of Northern Albertans, which ultimately address skill shortages.

Provide bursaries to students in northern health practicum placements: 50 bursaries.

The Northern Alberta Development Council intended to introduce a northern health bursary program in 2002-03 to assist students seeking health practicum placements to travel to Northern Alberta. The program was envisioned to provide northern experience for students and to assist Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) in recruiting to address healthcare worker shortages. Province-wide reorganization of RHAs late in the fiscal year delayed implementation of this program to 2003-2004.

Bursary Partnerships Program matching funds committed: \$135,000.

The target for the Bursary Partnership Program was to confirm \$135,000 in matching funding from partners. The actual amount committed was \$210,000, as indicated in the following table:

Reporting Year	Partner Contribution Target	Number of Bursaries	Partner Contribution Received	BPP Portion
2000-01	\$125,000	132	\$135,700	\$136,450
2001-02	\$130,000	143	\$163,300	\$140,800
2002-03	\$135,000	147	\$210,000	\$153,500

(Source: Bursaries database)

NADC bursary recipients return service rate: 75%.

As part of the Northern Alberta Development Council bursary program, students are required to enter into a reciprocal agreement to work in the North upon completion of their education. The return service rate measures compliance with this obligation. The rate includes both those students in the process of completing their return service and those who have completed their obligation. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of NADC bursary recipients returned to work in the North after completing their education in 2002-03, exceeding the Ministry's target (see table below).

Reporting Year	Return Service Target	Return Service Rate	Years Used in Calculation
2000-01	75%	78%	98, 99, 00
2001-02	75%	74%	99, 00, 01
2002-03	75%	78%	00, 01, 02

(Source: Bursaries database)

Northern LINKS program student participants who indicate their participation in the Northern LINKS project will ease their transition and encourage program completion: achieve an average rating of 8 out of 10.

The performance measure for Northern LINKS is the percentage of students planning to pursue post-secondary/trades education who expect their participation in the program to ease their transition and encourage program completion.

In 2002-03, \$421,430 in Northern LINKS funding was approved for 66 projects. A total of 2,356 students provided feedback to the Northern Alberta Development Council on a specific question. When asked how the project helped them to plan for post-secondary education (1=poor; 10=excellent), respondents provided an overall rating of 7.5 out of 10 (2002 – 7.9 out of 10). The decline in ratings could be attributable to first-time delivery of the program to junior high-school students, who may be less likely to appreciate its relevance.