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NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

1969

To His Honour,
J. W. Grant MacEwan,
Lieutenant-Governor in Council,
Legislative Building,
Edmonton 6, Alberta.

May It Please Your Honour:

The undersigned has the honour
to transmit herewith the seventh Annual Report
of The Northern Alberta Development Council.

Respectfully submitted,



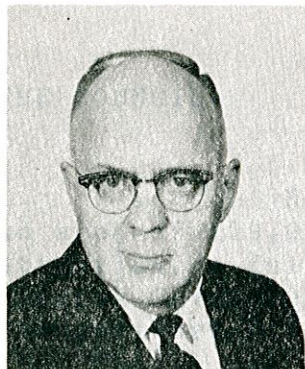
Honourable A. O. Fimrite

Chairman

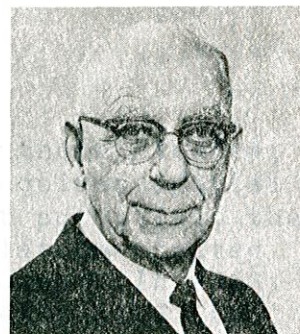
Date: February 2nd, 1970

NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 1969



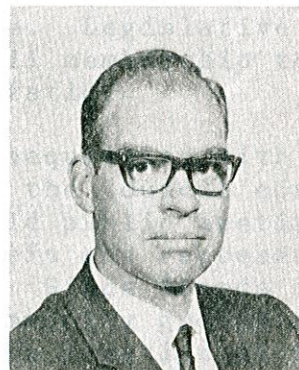
Hon. A. O. Fimrite
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Minister without Portfolio
MLA for Spirit River Constituency
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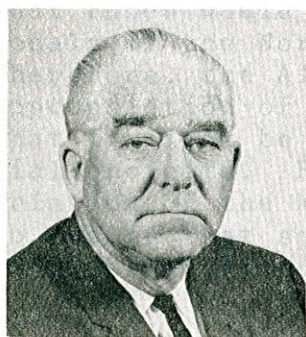
Mr. Ira McLaughlin
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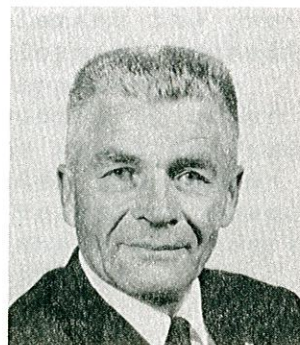
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THE COUNCIL

Recognizing that Northern Alberta, an area of 129,000 square miles, requires special attention to fulfil its development potential, the Alberta Government by Act of Legislature created the Northern Alberta Development Council in 1963. The Council was charged with the responsibility of advising the Government on ways and means that economic and social development could be enhanced in the portion of the province north of the 55th parallel.

When the Council was formed it was made up of five members; two northern M.L.A.'s one of which was the Chairman and the other Deputy Chairman and three members at large. Legislative action in 1968 increased the Council membership to six to improve geographic representation.

In order to become acquainted with the problems concerning the north, the Council conducted tours of northern areas, held public meetings, attended conferences, accepted briefs and representations from individuals and groups. Since Boards of Trade, Chambers of Commerce and Community groups in the north had strongly supported the creation of the Northern Alberta Development Council, these groups always have been most co-operative in informing the Council of northern development requirements and in evaluating existing programs. The Council carefully considered the submissions and made recommendations to the Executive Council.

The Executive Council became aware that funds would be required to implement the proposals of the Northern Alberta Development Council. Therefore, the Alberta Legislature approved the appropriation of a Budget to the Council in order that it might be able to finance the required remedial projects. Funds are placed under the appropriation of the Northern Alberta Development Council to ensure that specific amounts of money are devoted to development north of the 55th parallel.

Since the Council is not a department of government with an operating staff, it has used various existing departments or agencies to effect its programs. It is of course true that the departments of the public service are responsible for the entire province and cannot abdicate their responsibilities to the north on the grounds that the Council and its funds are in existence. Projects funded by the Northern Alberta Development Council have included the construction of roads, bridges and airstrips, surveys of minerals and fish and game resources, geologic mapping, flood control measures and the supplying of social service needs.

In this respect, the following table indicates the distribution of the Council's appropriation in the 1969-70 fiscal year in support of programs recommended by the Council and undertaken by the departments of government:

Northern Alberta Development Council
Approved Appropriations
1969 - 1970

<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>\$</u>
Drainage and flood control	150,000
Highway and bridge construction	1,767,800
Coal exploration and geologic mapping	33,000
Forestry road construction	569,300
Fishery survey	57,000
Provincial park development	94,100
Airstrip construction	110,600
Domestic water and health improvement projects	100,000
Human resources community projects	118,200
Total	<u>3,000,000</u>

The following table shows the funds appropriated to the Northern Alberta Development Council since its inception:

Northern Alberta Development Council
Approved Appropriations
1965-66 to 1969-70

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>\$</u>
1965-1966	2,500,000
1966-1967	5,000,000
1967-1968	5,500,000
1968-1969	4,000,000
1969-1970	3,000,000
Total	<hr/> 20,000,000

HIGH-LIGHTS OF NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR 1969-1970

A close working relationship between the Northern Alberta Development Council and the Human Resources Development Authority developed in 1969-70. The Council had established a special contingency fund which was used to finance special projects implemented by the Human Resources Development Authority (details on these expenditures and the specifics on H.R.D.A. projects appear later in this report).

Improved co-ordination of activities between the Northern Alberta Development Council and the Human Resources Development Authority was achieved when the Chairman of the Council commenced to attend the Authority meetings in July of 1969.

Both the N.A.D.C. and H.R.D.A. have a mutual interest in economic and social development in the north, and, therefore, the Council has been able to play a support role in furthering the efforts of the Human Resources Development Authority. The fact that the N.A.D.C. has had a contingency fund to draw on and the fact that the N.A.D.C. is able to focus attention on these needs and respond quickly to requests has resulted in a number of projects being completed during the past fiscal year.



In September of 1969 the Council accompanied by the Human Resources Development Co-ordinator of the Slave Lake Region conducted a comprehensive tour of northern areas to examine the status of projects which had been financed by the Northern Alberta Development Council and to determine the future requirements.

In previous years the Council has financed road construction in northern Alberta and in particular, road systems, north of Slave Lake and south of Fort Vermilion. Before initiating further projects in this area, the Council commissioned the Surveys Branch of the Department of Highways and Transport to undertake a comprehensive route study to determine the appropriate right-of-way for a connecting road. An Interim Report was received by the Council in November with a final report due early in 1970. The purpose of this study is to select an appropriate route for the entire road system in order that any road construction which might be undertaken in intermediate points will be on the approved right-of-way.

In order to keep abreast of developments affecting northern Alberta, Council members attended several conferences and conventions among which were: the Northern Roads Conference at Fort Vermilion, a Transportation & Accident Investigation meeting in Edmonton, the Alberta Aviation Convention at Banff, Research Council meetings in Edmonton, the Federal-Provincial Incentive meetings at Slave Lake, the Agriculture Out-look Conference at Fairview, the 1970 Tourist Conference in Edmonton and the Northwest Resources Conference in Grande Prairie at which all members attended.

In response to requests received the Council sponsored several economic studies which involved a proposed grain terminal in the north, an extension of a railway facility from Fox Creek to Valleyview, an economic analysis of the big game guiding industry.

The Chairman of the Council and Members of the Council became involved with the proposed veterinary services clinic for Fairview as a result of representations to the Council requesting that services of this nature be provided.

At the request of the Department of Municipal Affairs the Council arranged to have the Economic Research Division of the Department of Industry and Tourism examine the transportation cost disadvantage which affects northern farmers.

A second tour for M.L.A.'s was arranged by the Chairman of the Northern Alberta Development Council. The first tour was conducted in 1968 and the second in September of 1969 when the Members of the Legislature travelled the Alberta Resources Railway, meeting with officials of McInyre Porcupine Mines Ltd. while they stopped enroute, at Grande Cache.

In order to develop meaningful information on the mineral potential of northern Alberta, the N.A.D.C. financed the first year of a five year on-going geologic mapping program conducted by the Research Council of Alberta. The initial mapping carried out in 1969-70 took place in an area north of Fort McMurray near Wood Buffalo Park.

During the year the N.A.D.C. had a special meeting with the Northern Members of the Legislative Assembly to discuss the Northern Alberta Development Council appropriations and programs. These views were useful in helping to attach priorities to needed projects.

NORTHWEST RESOURCES CONFERENCE, 1969

In October 1965, the first Northwest Resources Conference sponsored by the Northern Alberta Development Council and the Peace River Chamber of Commerce, was held in Peace River. To this conference came the heads of industry, agriculture, transportation and commerce to see and hear for themselves the possibilities offered in the future development of northern Alberta. Many outstanding projects have developed in the area since that time.

On May 28, 1969 the second Conference was held in Grande Prairie under the co-sponsorship of the Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce, Canadian National Railways and the Northern Alberta Development Council.

The Conference marked the opening of the Alberta Resources Railway, a 234 mile line running from Hinton, Alberta to Grande Prairie through some of the most magnificent scenery in the province and servicing the McIntyre Porcupine Mine and Canadian Utilities developments at Grande Cache.

The existence of the north-south transportation and communication link along the western side of the province was fully appreciated by those attending the Conference as being a new basis on which to co-ordinate current facilities and services as well as provide access to a vast untapped area of mineral and industrial potential.

Papers were presented at the Conference by:

- Mr. J. K. Godin COAL
Executive Vice President, McIntyre
Porcupine Mines Ltd.
- Mr. G. R. Hugo PETROLEUM
Planning & Economic Adviser, Banff Oil Ltd.
- Mr. A. H. Hart MARKETING
Marketing Vice President, Canadian National
Railways.
- Mr. P.J.G. Bentley FOREST UTILIZATION
Vice-President, North Canadian Forest
Industries Ltd.
- Dr. A. A. Guitard AGRICULTURE
Director, Dominion Research Station,
Beaverlodge, Alberta
- Dr. E. J. Wiggins THE INDUSTRIAL
FUTURE
Director, Research Council of Alberta

The Conference was also particularly pleased to welcome as special guest speakers Mr. J. A. Stiles, of the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, and Mr. E. S. Bobrov, Scientific Counsellor to the U.S.S.R. Embassy in Ottawa.

The Northern Alberta Development Council in addition to participating in the planning of the Conference, financed the publishing of the proceedings. Copies are available from the Northern Alberta Development Council Office, 324 Legislative Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

GRANDE CACHE

Frontier towns no longer develop slowly through a process of commercial evolution. For the second time in a few years, Alberta has seen an isolated northern location explode into a town complete with population, stores, school, hospital, housing, transportation, communication and all other facets of "instant" civilization.

The basis for the Grande Cache development is coal: the only known source of low volatile, strong coking coal of the Pocohontas type outside the United States. It produces 12,300 to 14,500 British Thermal Units per pound, a figure which compares favorably with the heating capacity of other North American coals. High swelling is required in coking, and Grande Cache's coal has a higher swelling index than many other coals produced in North America. The sulphur content is under one per cent, ideal for coking. Much of the continent's coal has too high a sulphur content for coking use.

The coal potential of the Smoky River area on the eastern slopes of the Rockies was known in the early 1900's but, it was not until a major geological appraisal of the area by McIntyre Porcupine Mines Ltd., in the early 1960's, that this potential was fully realized.

In full production, the coking coal from Grande Cache to be exported will be loaded into 80-100 car unit trains at the rate of 4,000 tons per hour for shipment to Vancouver ports.

The "middlings" coal that will be produced has encouraged Canadian Utilities Ltd., to commence consideration of the most northerly coal fired electric generating plant at Grande Cache rather than extend existing facilities at other locations. The \$28 million plant will generate up to 150,000 kilowatts and provide the basis for a second power transmission line into the Grande Prairie region. Production is expected to start in 1972.

The benefits to Alberta and Canada from the Grande Cache development will include \$450 million of foreign exchange from the initial long term contract for coal with Japan, local employment for 600-700 people plus indirect employment for many others, the establishment of a new town with excellent commercial and recreational development potential and a further electric power source serving Alberta's northwest.

Development of the Grande Cache town site began in 1969, and by January 1970 a total of 1,323 persons made their home there. McIntyre Porcupine Mines Ltd., is building 350 houses in the town; and the provincial government about a dozen for their employess. A very small number of private homes are also being built. Seventy-four apartment suites and facilities for 125 trailers provide other accommodations.

A small portion of the town's commercial centre was developed in 1969, providing all the essential services. The total value of residential and commercial construction in 1969 is estimated at \$9 million.

The provincial government, through the Department of Municipal Affairs, has installed water and sewer lines for all the first phase development. In 1970 all roads in the first phase of development will be paved and have sidewalks.

The government has committed itself to contracts totalling \$2.4 million in the town, including water, sewer, and the new provincial-municipal building now under construction. An \$800,000 hospital is also being built, and a 16 room \$500,000 school was completed in 1969.

The town is served with underground power from Canadian Utilities' new power plant, and at present with propane gas from Plains-Western, which will be converted to natural gas.

The main road linking Highway #16 with Grande Cache was built with a portion of N.A.D.C.'s funds.

ALBERTA RESOURCES RAILWAY

The Alberta Resources Railway runs for 234 miles along the eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains, from Brule (near Hinton) to Grande Prairie. The line contains two miles of bridges, 16 in all and three of them reaching down 190-200 feet into the valleys below. The line rises from 2000 feet to 4,970 feet before falling away into the Smoky River Valley and the less precipitous grades into Grande Prairie. The 175 foot embankment at Flood Creek contains 650,000 cubic yards of fill to provide the highest known work of its kind in North America; almost 45 million cubic yards of materials were excavated and placed in the total project.

The railway guaranteed the establishment of the McIntyre Porcupine Mines Ltd., at Grande Cache which will feed the Japanese steel industry with high grade coking coal. The Canadian Utilities generating plant for additional

services to the northwest was a natural and economical extension of the facilities and materials of the mine. A natural gas processing and sulphur production plant is establishing at Gold Creek and feasibility studies for a major pulp mill in the area are currently in progress.

With the Alberta Resources Railway providing a north-south communications and transportation link through the northwestern quarter of the province, access to Pacific ports and outlet to the Peace River area, further development in and through this until now untapped area is assured. A 187 acre industrial park at Grande Prairie has already been prepared to cater to the expansion of northern services and industry that will follow.

MINING

The year 1969 saw Oil and Gas Conservation Board approval granted to a \$195 million oil sands project, the second plant to be built north of Fort McMurray. Approval for Syncrude Ltd. came in September, but, it will be another six years before the plant goes into operation.

Large scale production of synthetic crude will commence in 1976, and reach the approved capacity of 80,000 barrels a day in 1977. The production will be divided into 50,000 barrels per day of synthetic crude, 25,000 barrels per day of specialty fuel oils and 5,000 barrels per day of naptha. The synthetic crude oil would be marketed in the mid-west area of the United States in new markets provided by the applicant companies forming Syncrude Ltd. The specialty fuel oils would be marketed in Easter Canada and in the Great Lakes area of the United States.

A major coal contract was signed in December of 1968 with McIntyre Porcupine Mines Ltd., for 30 million long tons to be supplied to Japan during the next 15 years.

During 1969 the Great Canadian Oil Sands plant at Fort McMurray produced approximately 10 million barrels of synthetic crude oil. A secondary conveyor system has been installed to increase mining capacity and provide more flexibility in operation. This is part of a \$4 million plant improvement program to facilitate smoother operation of the plant. This improvement program started in mid summer of 1969, and includes many changes to avoid bottle-necks in the plant operations.

AGRICULTURE

Although natural resources development continues to increase in importance in Alberta's north, agriculture and its by-products will remain the greatest economic factor in the Peace River District.

Farmers were finished seeding relatively early in 1969, and crops got off to a good start after ample rain in 1968 and good snow cover during the winter. But, the crops suffered a severe setback with widespread frosts in June, and again in August. Rain and snow throughout September and October kept threshing operations at a near standstill, making the fall of 1969 one of the worst on record. Unseasonable warm weather in November and December permitted some farmers to harvest their crops on frozen land, but, it did not last long enough to complete harvesting, with the result that a portion will have to be recovered in the spring of 1970. Wheat, oat and barley production was down considerably, due to both lower yields and less acres seeded to those crops. Flaxseed, tame hay and rye production showed slight increases, while rapeseed production increased nearly 50 per cent.

The honey crop in the Peace River District was slightly higher than average. Of the 19 million pounds produced in the province, the Peace River area accounted for 7.2 million pounds, or 39 per cent. The district also has 38 per cent of the colonies in the province - 45,000 out 120,000.

Homesteading in northern Alberta continues to appeal to the public. The following tables indicate the interest in homesteading for the entire province, with about 80 per cent of the totals shown being for Northern Alberta:

<u>HOMESTEAD SALES</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>AREA (Acres)</u>
Civilian & Veteran Homestead Sales at December 31, 1969	4506	1,219,180.37
Civilian & Veteran Homestead Sale applications received in 1969	477	
 <u>HOMESTEAD LEASES</u>		
Civilian & Veteran Homestead Leases at December 31, 1969	1452	378,460.94

In northern areas where the growing season is approximately 105 days, it is essential that low lying arable land be cleared of spring run-off flood waters as quickly as possible. Once this is done, full advantage can be taken of the long hours of sunlight available for the production of agricultural crops.

The following programs have been undertaken by the Water Resources Division of the Department of Agriculture and the joint expenditure from the Department's and Council's funds for the 1969-1970 season will be approximately \$298,000.00.

Thirty-two projects have been investigated and are now in the final stages of design:

<u>AREAS</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>% COMPLETED</u>
I.D. 16 (126)	Gordy	100
I.D. 17 (131)	Nampa	100
I.D. 17 (131)	Bearhead Creek	100
I.D. 17 (131)	Marie Reine	100
I.D. 17 (131)	Rodrieges	100
I.D. 17 (131)	Krawchuk	100
I.D. 19 (132)	Kakut Creek	100
I.D. 19 (132)	Four Mile Creek	100
I.D. 20 (134)	Laninga	100
I.D. 20 (134)	Letersky No. 2	100
I.D. 20 (134)	East Braeburn	100
I.D. 20 (134)	Whitburn	100
I.D. 21 (139)	Clear Prairie	100
I.D. 22 (138)	North Manning No. 2	100
I.D. 22 (138)	South Deadwood	100
I.D. 23 (147)	La Crete	10

NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY

Several new gas processing plants went on stream in Northern Alberta during 1969. The largest of these was Amoco's \$8 million plant at Marten Hills. Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Company built a \$5 million plant at Sturgeon Lake, Shell Oil constructed a \$3 million plant at Simonette, while Imperial constructed a \$2 million plant at Rainbow. Home Oil also went into production at Marten Hills with a \$1,200,000 plant, and Alber-sum Oil and Gas Ltd., built a \$400,000 gas processing plant at Calling Lake.

Construction of Atlantic Richfield's gas processing plant located at Gold Creek, 30 miles south-east of Grande Prairie, commenced August, 1969 and is scheduled to be completed in May of 1970. The company will spend approximately \$8 million on this development, \$5 million for construction of the plant and an additional \$3 million for roads, bridges and the gathering system. The plant, when completed, will produce 48 million cubic feet of gas per day, 100 tons of sulphur per day and 3,600 barrels of condensate per day. The sulphur will be shipped via the Alberta Resources Railway to West Coast markets while the condensate is carried by pipeline to Edmonton.

Last year marked the first full year of operation of the Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Company's Fox Creek gas plant, the largest in northern Alberta. The \$28 million plant services the Kaybob South Field, and is capable of producing 1,044 long tons of sulphur per day in addition to natural gas liquids.

A second Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas processing cycling plant was just completed at the end of 1969, at a cost of \$20 million. Chevron Standard Ltd., will start construction in the spring of 1970 on a \$60 million gas processing plant, to be completed in mid-1971. Chevron is currently operating a smaller plant.

FORESTRY

Feasibility studies are continuing for a proposed \$60 million MacMillan Bloedel pulp mill near Whitecourt. The company received permission to establish the mill providing construction starts before January 1, 1971, and production commences before January 1, 1973. However, if before construction commences a bona fide application is received for a mill generally of the same size and covering the same area to be built by a significantly earlier date, MacMillan Bloedel will have to decide to agreeing to the earlier dates, or, withdrawing its rights.

A Proctor and Gamble Co. of Canada Ltd. pulp mill near Grande Prairie is proposed to start construction by July 1970, depending on the findings of a feasibility study which will include forest inventory, logging cost data, mill site selection including pollution abatement designing, processing cost estimates and other factors.

In 1968, North Western Pulp and Power Ltd. at Hinton acquired the rights to an additional 3,300 square miles conditional upon mill expansion commencing by January 1, 1971. The new capacity of the mill will be 1,000 tons of pulp per day. Expansion planning is well underway.

North Canadian Forest Industries Ltd. has expanded in 1969 by establishing a new sawmill near Hines Creek with initial production geared to some 12 MM f.b.m. pine and spruce timber annually and provision for doubling this, which may take place in two years. The plywood logs are being transported to the Grande Prairie plant by truck. The company has been active in buying additional quotas, and is currently investigating the addition of several timbered blocks which may finally total some four townships.

Alberta Hardwood Co. Ltd. is establishing a plant in the Slave Lake area utilizing poplar for a raw material. This is the first major utilization of this wood in Alberta. The plant will be situated on a 40-acre site at Mitsue, just east of the town of Slave Lake. The company has purchased the rights of 9,490 acres of deciduous timber annually, yielding some 57 million board feet. The new plant will be a valuable asset to the area in terms of resource utilization and employment opportunities.

Although the number of forest fires in northern Alberta in 1969 increased considerably from the previous year, the total acreage burned was less than 10 per cent of the 1968 figures. Hardest hit were the Peace River and Footner Lake Forests.

FIRES AND AREA BURNED BY DIVISION

Number of Fires

<u>Division</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
GRANDE PRAIRIE	40	13	7	14	48	19	15
PEACE RIVER	97	38	22	45	31	22	53
SLAVE LAKE	94	53	52	90	219	123	101
LAC LA BICHE	66	42	23	35	58	46	25
ATHABASCA		29	24	11	22	7	58
FOOTNER LAKE			44	66	111	52	70
TOTALS	297	175	172	261	489	269	322

Area burned - Acres

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
GRANDE PRAIRIE	120	52	601	155	2,557	12,085	272
PEACE RIVER	5,643	3,124	871	3,541	535	1,418	29,953
SLAVE LAKE	822	963	270	1,523	3,737	373,354	1,464
LAC LA BICHE	9,884	3,327	48	4,538	2,228	282,723	479
ATHABASCA		3,702	225	6,230	183	36	8,332
FOOTNER LAKE			52,294	52,857	3,420	350	23,597
TOTALS	16,289	11,168	54,309	68,844	12,660	669,966	64,097

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

Rail

The Alberta Resources Railway was completed by the Canadian National Railways on schedule at the end of 1968, and officially opened in the spring of 1969.

The Canadian National Railways also undertook the construction of a line from Windfall to Fox Creek to serve the gas processing plants now in operation there. The 62 miles of main track were built at a cost of \$12 million and includes four bridges making up 2,000 feet of track.

The line necessitated the clearing of 1,500 acres of land, and the movement of 6 million cubic yards of earth. Four and a half miles of culvert pipe were also laid.

The line will be completed by July, 1970.

The new line serves the Amoco gas processing plant at Bigstone which produces 350 long tons of sulphur per day, and the Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas plants at Kaybob, with a production of 2,100 long tons of sulphur per day. Dry sulphur is shipped on the line in 95 ton capacity hoppers, and liquid propane gas is shipped in tank cars.

Roads

With transportation and communication a basic essential for northern development, it is not surprising to find that road and bridge construction claim a major share of the Northern Alberta Development Council appropriation. In the season 1969-70, total expenditure by the Department of Highways & Transport Construction Branch will be approximately \$1,280,000 and a further \$85,000 expended by the Bridge Branch. The projects over which these funds have been disbursed are as follows:

CONSTRUCTION BRANCH

- N.D. 1 East of Clear River to West of
Clear River - Grading 3.38 miles
(Incomplete)
- N.D. 2 High Level to Rainbow Lake
Traffic Control and Miscellaneous
- N.D. 2 Junction Highway #35 to West of High
Level - Pit Run Ravel Surfacing
- N.D. 2 West of Sixth Meridian to East of Comet
Airstrip.

East of Comet Airstrip to South of
Assumption

(These two items will be classified as
Grading and Pit Run Gravel Surfacing)
- N.D. 2 South of Assumption to Comet Airstrip
Grading and Pit Run Gravel Surfacing
- N.D. 2 Junction N.D. 2 to Chinchaga # Pit
Gravel Haul Road Construction
- N.D. 2 High Level to Rainbow Lake
Crush and Stockpile Grave
(Contract let but work not started)

BRIDGE BRANCH

- N.D. 2 Completion of Chinchaga River Bridge
West of High Level
- N.D. 2 Completion of Bridge over East Branch
of Sousa Creek - West of High Level
- N.D. 2 Completion of Bridge over West Branch
of Sousa Creek - West of High Level
- N.D. 1 Completion of Clear River Bridge at Bear
Canyon - West of Hines Creek

Construction projects in the Roads to Resources program carried out by the Department of Lands and Forests with funds allocated by the Council made good progress in 1969.

The Fort Vermilion to Wadlin Lake Road is now graded and gravelled to Mile 62.33, and four miles of soft grade from the previous year's construction has also been regravelled.

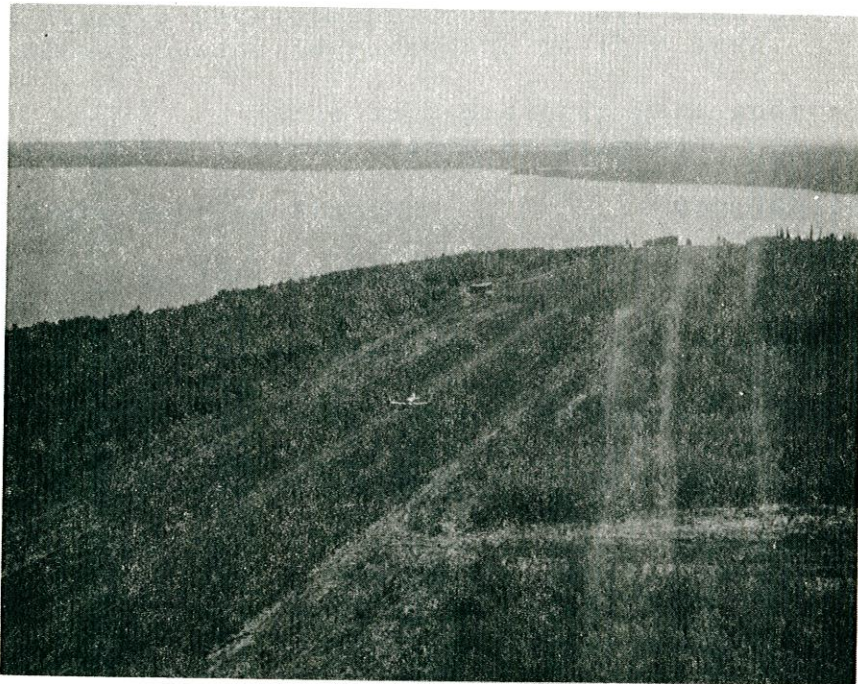
A three-span concrete bridge was erected across the Beaver River on the Mildred Lake to Fort McKay road. The 126 foot long bridge replaces two nine-foot diameter culverts which were in danger of being washed out. The culverts were salvaged and are now in storage.

Three miles of clearing, piling and grade construction has been completed on the Graham Lakes access road. A contract has also been awarded for the clearing, piling and disposal on 15.5 miles of right-of-way between Graham Lake and Peerless Lake with the understand that job opportunities will be provided for residents of the area.

Construction was commenced on a 60-foot treated timber bridge across Peerless Creek on the Graham Lakes Access Road.

Airstrips

The program of airstrip development initiated and funded by the Council and implemented by the Department of Lands and Forests has been greatly appreciated by the residents of isolated communities.



Lighting was installed at the High Prairie airstrip, thus making this facility more useful in serving the emergency medical air service needs of the surrounding area.

An air terminal building consisting of waiting room, ticket office, Department of Transport offices, airport keeper's office, wash-room facilities and six other offices has been under construction at the Footner Lake Airport since the end of September, 1969. It is scheduled to be ready for occupancy by March 15, 1970.

MUNICIPAL PROJECTS

In many northern communities there are not adequate resources for the communities to organize into Municipalities and thereby provide their own services out of tax revenues. Consequently, many hamlets in the north have inadequate water supply and other public health problems which have been detrimental to health. The resources of the Northern Alberta Development Council have been used to effect needed improvements in this area.

Three such projects were undertaken in the 1969-70 season as follows:

La Crete Nursing Station	\$34,705.00
Project completed	
Wabasca-Desmarais Water	\$5,137.00
Wells, pump houses, and pumps installed. Anticipate that a distribution line will be required.	
Faust Water	\$47,536.00
Further work to be carried out in the spring including a small distribution line.	
Expended to date	\$87,378.000

The balance of the 1969-1970 appropriation will be expended on an engineering survey in connection with the provision of water in Grouard area, as well as payment of hold-back money to various contractors.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

In collaboration with the Alberta Human Resources Development Authority, the Northern Alberta Development Council has supported those several projects in small isolated communities of the north, particularly those populated by native peoples where there is a need for encouragement of local initiative and self-reliance.

The results of these projects have been reported to the Council as follows:

Loon Lake Bridge - (\$5,000 allocated) - A new span was constructed across the Loon River to link up part of the settlement with the school, store and other facilities.

Chipewyan Lakes - (\$7,000 and \$3,000 allocated)

Create garden space for production in 1970; road facilities improved around the settlement; new log community hall contracted and built locally.

Desmarais Bigstone Band - (\$8,500 and \$500 allocated)
Constructed a portion of a road by the band for three miles (outside of the reserve) along a 100-foot right-of-way to provide access to timber resources exploited in the winter of 1969-70 by the band.

Desmarais-Wabasca (\$8,790 allocated)
Extension of electrical service to 55 residence by Northland Utilities Limited



Gardens viewed by the Chairman of the Council
and

Presentation of keys for the Community Hall to
the President of the Association



Communications - Emergency radio service with isolated settlements in the area of Slave Lake have been provided by hooking transmitters into the Alberta Forest Service Network and operating out of the Slave Lake General Hospital during the winter months, during which time the Forest Service would normally be closed down. Serving Graham, Peerless, Sandy and Chipewyan Lakes the service has provided increased efficiency and communication to all agencies and population in the area. The installation, undertaken by Alberta Government Telephones was done at the request of the Northern Alberta Development Council and was made possible by co-ordinating existing provincial and municipal services.

SOCIAL ASPECTS

Population:

The population of northern Alberta continues to increase as more and more areas are opened up by the exploitation of the area's natural resources. With the rapid development of the north, new towns and settlements are established quickly, so exact population figures are difficult to obtain.

The 1966 Dominion Bureau of Statistics census indicated the resident population north of the 55th parallel in Alberta was more than 92,500 persons, an increase of 15.5 per cent in the five year period from 1961 to 1966.

The following tables show population growth rates for selected areas in northern Alberta, and building permit figures:

POPULATION SELECT CENTRES

<u>CENTRE</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
GRANDE PRAIRIE	9,707	11,417	11,417	11,605	11,873
PEACE RIVER	3,209	4,087	5,024	5,201	5,384
FORT McMURRAY	1,186	2,614	3,387	4,984	5,943
HIGH LEVEL		708	1,551	2,006	2,077
HIGH PRAIRIE	2,305	2,241	2,430	2,430	2,430
VALLEYVIEW	1,306	1,827	1,827	1,827	1,827
FAIRVIEW	1,701	1,884	1,884	1,931	2,093
SLAVE LAKE	468	1,716	1,716	1,716	1,640
MANNING	1,148	1,179	1,322	1,322	1,322
SPIRIT RIVER	983	1,034	1,136	1,136	1,103

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED - 1963-1969 (Millions of Dollars)

<u>CENTRE</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
GRANDE PRAIRIE	3.90	2.90	3.10	3.20	2.18	5.24	3.72
PEACE RIVER	1.50	2.10	1.50	2.20	2.01	1.94	1.95
FORT McMURRAY	.20	2.00	2.50	2.37	5.73	3.26	1.00
HIGH LEVEL	.30	1.20	.80	1.55	1.13	1.41	.52
HIGH PRAIRIE	.30	.65	.20	.85	.60	1.21	.35
VALLEYVIEW	.80	.80	1.10	.12	.68	.13	1.64
FAIRVIEW	.30	.70	.40	.60	.85	.63	.38
SLAVE LAKE		.60	1.50	.45	1.17	.65	.72
MANNING	.50	.65	.25	.50	.14	.50	.26
SPIRIT RIVER	.22	.36	.30	.12	.57	.14	1.12

Source: Alberta Bureau of Statistics

Health

The Northern Alberta Health Service inaugurated on April 1, 1966 by Order-in-Council under the Health Unit Act, was designed to improve health services in areas not served by Health Units and includes Improvement Districts 121, 128, 144, 145, 148, 149 and 143 excluding Wood Buffalo Park which is a federal responsibility.

The staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer of Health, a Senior Nurse and a Public Health Inspector, all of whom reside in Edmonton.

The full-time Public Health Inspector visited all of the major centres on a monthly basis. The Preventive Health Service of this northern region is based on the nine Municipal Nurses of the Municipal Nursing Service.

There are six resident physicians in the area: two at Fort McMurray, two at Fort Vermilion, one at High Level and one at Rainbow Lake. Other physicians visit the area on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.

The Service has an appropriation to pay for the travelling and subsistence expenses for medical specialists to work in remote areas. In practice this is limited to eye and dental examinations.

PARKS

Park development in the northern areas has the effects of stimulating local employment, providing recreational facilities for local residents, attracting visitors to the north and the subsequent development of service industries that such visitors require.

Throughout Alberta the use of provincial parks and camp-grounds has shown a healthy increase every year thereby making the provisions of recreational facilities a sound investment for expanding the potential of local economies.

In the 1969-70 season, Northern Alberta Development Council funds assisted in developments in the following parks:

<u>Parks</u>	<u>\$</u>
L910A Lac Cardinal	1,110.12
L910B Slave Lake	1,994.52
L910C Moonshine Lake	5,152.16
L910D O'Brien	969.95
L910E Saskatoon Island	994.54
L910G Winston Churchill	11,361.35
L910H Williamson	16,059.95
L910K Winagami	8,679.90

For information and assistance on all matters concerning Alberta's north, contact the Council Member most convenient to you.

Northern Development
RESOURCE CENTRE

Rec'd.

Author

Main Class.

X-Ref. HLTA. GOVT. ↑

NORTHERN DEV. BRANCH

Locational