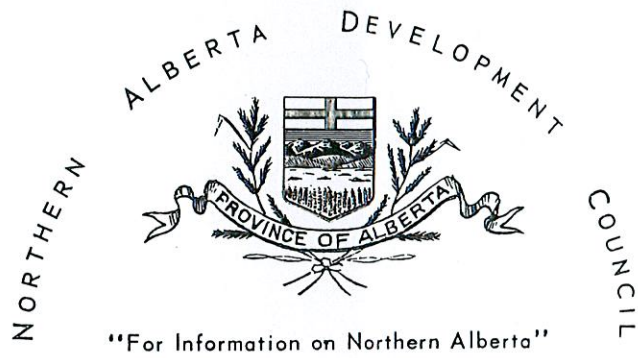


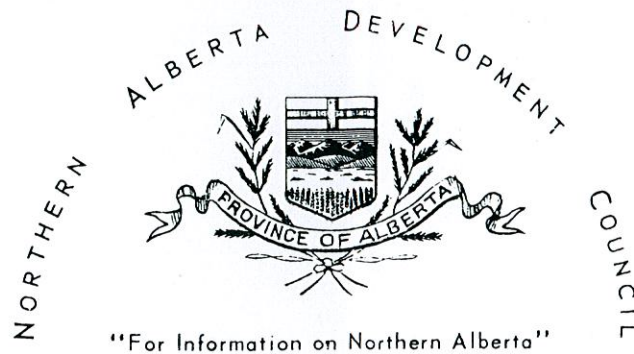
NINTH ANNUAL REPORT



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229 Legislative Building
Edmonton 6, Alberta

March 15, 1972

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 Ninth Annual Report of The Northern Alberta Development Council.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honourable J. Allen Adair
Minister without Portfolio
Responsible for
Northern Development and
Alberta Indian-Metis Liaison

NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 1971

STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER

The Honorable J. Allen Adair
Minister without Portfolio
Responsible for
Northern Development and
Alberta Indian-Metis Liaison

In the following section, as my first official report, I convey to you a review of the activities of The Northern Alberta Development Council. During the past six years and to the end of 1970, the Council expended a total of \$21 million for projects which have benefited northern Alberta.

In 1971, there were no further funds made available and The Northern Alberta Development Council, for all practical intents and purposes, ceased to function. To this date, it remains inactive.

The activity that carried on into the 1971-72 fiscal year as a direct result of the Council, was that of a residual nature stemming from projects initiated in the previous year. This activity is now fast drawing to a close and the question that remains is with respect to where we go from this point forward.

It is significant that the past efforts of the Northern Alberta Development Council have demonstrated an increasing need for a "Long Term" comprehensive and balanced approach towards maximizing socio-economic opportunities for citizens of the north.

With my government's deep commitment for a northern development policy, it will be my task to assess past efforts of the Council and to help formulate a policy which will afford opportunities for the resolution of socio-economic disparities and the improvement of the quality of life for all citizens of Alberta.

THE COUNCIL

The Northern Alberta Development Council was created in 1963 to advise the provincial government on projects and programs which would aid the development of that section of the province north of the 55th parallel. The first, advisory phase of the Council's program continued until 1965 when a budget was assigned to support the recommended projects. The apportionment of these funds, which reached a total of almost \$22 million, was completed at the end of the fiscal year 1970-71. The Council was virtually inactive from that date on as a reorganization of the body was being considered.

However, a number of projects initiated through the N.A.D.C. during 1970-71 carried on during the past year. Among these were studies of the regulations governing the construction of fishing lodges in the north; various community projects; road construction programs and a study of the air ambulance service to the region.

Although The Northern Alberta Development Council has not been operating over the past twelve months, northern Alberta development continued at an ever-increasing pace, with new emphasis on industry, agriculture and natural resources. Communications, transportation and recreation maintained a high rate of improvement as other government departments carried on with their programs of progress.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Improvement of northern roads continued during 1971, with Highway No. 2 being paved from High Prairie to Slave Lake, leaving only 22 miles to be completed. This set the stage for completion of paving the full stretch of highway in 1972.

On the MacKenzie Highway, base course was completed to a paved surface standard for approximately 29 miles and the section of base course previously constructed at High Level was completed with an asphaltic hot mix surface. This reduces the unpaved mileage between Grimshaw and High Level to 58 miles.

In the Slave Lake area, the construction branch of the Department of Highways and Transport constructed a bypass of the Town of Slave Lake, which included extensive floodway control development, bridges, drainage systems and other facilities necessary for the development of sub-divisions and to set the stage for removing heavy

truck and industrial traffic from the downtown street areas. The Department also constructed a bypass of the Lesser Slave Lake shore area through the development of Mitsue Lake Industrial Park zone, involving some seven miles.

Work continued on the first-class, all-weather, highway-standard Northern Industrial Road which extends north from Red Earth oil fields. Presently stretching 42 miles along the Loon River, this road will eventually connect with the Wadlin Lake road and will open up 150 million board feet of timber annually.

ENVIRONMENT

The Water Resources Division of the Department of Environment conducted six flood control programs during the year: Gunnite and Johnson in M.D. 130, Mulligan Creek in I.D. 20, Talbot in I.D. 17, Rosenberger and Keg River in I.D. 23. Work continued on the East-West Prairie River flood control program.

The department co-operated with federal government agencies on an intensive study of the Athabasca delta problem and is considering means to reduce the possibility of future flooding of the Canus and Joussard areas.

LANDS AND FORESTS

One new provincial park, Moose Lake, was opened by the Parks Division of the Department of Lands and Forests on August 31, 1971. Work at the other eight parks in the region included improvements to parking areas, the establishment of nature trails, installation of power and creation of formalized campgrounds.

The Department is also conducting a study to determine the causes of deterioration of Lesser Slave Lake as a commercial fishing site.

GEOLOGIC MAPPING

The geologic mapping of the Precambrian Shield by the Research Council of Alberta was initiated in 1969 and fieldwork carried out that year and in 1970 had the financial support of the Northern Alberta Development Council. Data compiled were the basis for an unpublished report describing the geology and mineral resources of Wood Buffalo Park and contiguous areas which was submitted to the Chairman of The Northern Alberta Development Council early in 1971.

The report included a surficial geology map of approximately 25,000 square miles on a scale of one inch to eight miles. This material is now being edited for publication. The first such map, dealing with the Bitumont area, was published late in 1971.

Approximately 500 square miles of Precambrian Shield on the north shore of Lake Athabasca were mapped in 1971, part of a program to map the entire Shield area, the best potential source of metallic mineral deposits in the province. During this survey several gossans (weathered out-crops which may be indicative of mineralized zones) and large areas of radioactive pegmatite-granite zones were encountered. A detailed map of the region is being compiled which should provide the basic geological information necessary to more detailed exploration for mineral deposits.

A brief survey was made last year of the potential industrial limestone deposits in the Fort McMurray area. The samples have been analyzed and the results are being compiled in a report dealing with limestones of Alberta, to be published later this year.

In connection with the selection of a route for a new multi-purpose highway between Grande Cache and Grande Prairie, an unpublished report on the geology and mineral resource of this area was submitted to the Department of Highways and Transport by The Research Council of Alberta early in 1971. Special emphasis was given to the engineering aspects of the geology and to the widespread coal deposits which crop out in northwest-central Alberta.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Industrial development in northern Alberta during 1971 was highlighted by the commencement of the multi-million dollar Procter and Gamble pulp mill now more than 30 per cent completed at Grande Prairie; the approval of the \$500 million oil extraction plant which Syncrude Canada Ltd. is presently planning for Mildred Lake, and the announcement of a \$16 million addition to the Great Canadian Oil Sands facilities at Fort McMurray.

The forest products industry continued to expand, notably in the region of Slave Lake, where the new Mitsue Lake Industrial Park is located. North American Stud Co. completed a 3.5 million dollar mill, planer and kiln complex at this location which began production in February 1972 and has a potential of 60 million board feet of kiln-dried poplar studs annually.

Vanderwell Lumber also operates a planer in the park as well as a \$400,000 sawmill at the end of the Northern Industrial Road. W. R. Zeidler Ltd. has constructed a sawmill and has plans for a veneer mill in this area as well, with a total investment of approximately \$3 million.

At Fort McMurray, Great Canadian Oil Sands production neared its allowable maximum daily capacity of 45,000 barrels during 1971. Oil companies continued with their research into development of heavy crude deposits near Cold Lake.

Among other industrial projects completed in the north during the year were a \$1.24 million packing plant at Grande Prairie and new facilities for the manufacturing of concrete products, air conditioning and heating units, dairy products, trailers and steel fabrication. Under construction at year end was a \$600,000 sawmill at Faust and projects under consideration for the area included a \$60 million thermal power plant at Mildred Lake and a \$3.5 million rapeseed processing plant.

GAS PLANT

Gas plant construction was again active, with three plants being completed in the north: one at Kaybob South and two at Judy Creek for a total of \$103 million. At the end of 1971, two plants were under construction at Rainbow, valued at over \$11 million and four others were under construction at Nipisi, Zama and Berland River, at a total cost of \$23 million, according to year-end figures released by The Alberta Bureau of Statistics.

AGRICULTURE

In spite of drought in some sections and flooding in others, agriculture in the north made further progress in 1971. Average yields of wheat, oats and barley were greater than the previous year and above long term averages. Rapeseed and flaxseed yields were slightly lower, although production of rapeseed increased due to a greater acreage devoted to this crop.

Production of wheat increased from 4.4 million to 8.1 million bushels; oats from 6.4 to 6.7 million bushels; barley from 7.2 to 9.0 million bushels and rye from 207,400 to 210,000 bushels. Flaxseed decreased from 534,700 bushels to 151,800 bushels while tame hay increased very slightly.

On June 1, 1971, there were an estimated 119,500 cattle and calves on farms in the Peace River District. This was an increase of 2 per cent over the 117,000 estimated for that time one year earlier. The number of hogs increased 18 per cent to 123,000 head and the sheep and lamb population increased 20 per cent to 12,000 head. The number of poultry remained the same while horse population declined slightly.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A prime example of the progress which can be gained by co-operation of municipal, federal and provincial government agencies is provided by the activity at Slave Lake. Under the Lesser Slave Lake Special Area program, this community is developing in all phases, establishing a resource base in northern Alberta.

To support the establishment and growth of the Mitsue Lake Industrial Park, provincial government assistance has helped to provide the town of Slave Lake with new water and sewer facilities, a water treatment plant, a new terminal building and longer runways at the airport. A weather station has been moved in from Wagner to the town of Slave Lake and the location is being developed into a junction for air traffic en route from Edmonton to Yellowknife.

The Community of Slave Lake is very much involved in a number of projects which are designed to improve conditions in the town and area. The Sawridge Indian Band has under construction the Sawridge Motor Hotel, a \$600,000 facility which is financed largely by the Alberta Commercial Corporation and is also assisted by a federal incentive grant. The Band is also instituting a prefabricated housing plant which will employ some 20 people and is supported by federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion grants and financing from the Department of Indian Affairs.

Community progress is notable in other areas as well. The Alberta Vocational Centre at Grouard is in operation and the Grande Prairie Community College has expanded satisfactorily over the past year. A fish plant has been constructed at Faust in connection with the Northwest Fishing Co-operative.

Employment in the north has been increased through the Alberta Provincial Priority Employment Program which has instituted a number of projects designed to provide jobs for local people. Funds have been provided to various government departments which then undertake the improvement utilizing local labor. Among the

departments of the provincial government which are involved are Lands and Forests, Highways and Transport, Industry and Commerce, Education, Municipal Affairs, Agriculture and the Alberta Housing Corporation.

Under the Fairs and Exhibitions Section of Priority Employment Program a number of communities have received grants which are allocated to the improvement of recreational facilities. In High Level, a \$50,000 grant will enable the community to erect an arena, and in Manning a \$20,000 grant allows the Agricultural Society to add to their fairground facilities.