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**ANNUAL
REPORT
1973-74**

Alberta
NORTHERN ALBERTA
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

EDMONTON, Alberta

To His Honour
J. W. Grant MacEwan
Lieutenant-Governor of the
Province of Alberta

Sir:

The undersigned has the honour to transmit herewith the tenth
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

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STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER:

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

Northern Alberta is entering a period of unprecedented development. This development will have a significant effect on the lives of all Albertans and will do much to bring the people of the more isolated areas of Northern Alberta into the life style of a rapidly developing area. There will be substantial benefits to the people of Northern Alberta from such developments, but there will also be a significant impact from rapid social re-adjustments. It is imperative that we as a government respond to the needs of the people of Northern Alberta to insure that development brings with it the opportunity for northern residents to choose a life style compatible with their ambitions.

It is necessary that each individual share in the planning for this development. In an effort to increase the Government's awareness of local concerns and local needs the Government has established the Northern Alberta Development Council, an advisory committee on all matters related to the social and economic development of Northern Alberta.

The Northern Development Group and the Indian-Metis Liaison Group have been established within the Northern Development Office.

Indian-Metis Liaison Group:

The Indian-Metis Liaison Group assists in the co-ordination of policy relating to Native people in the Province, but except in very special circumstances, it does not provide program help or services, but works with existing program departments of Government to ensure that the necessary services are provided. The Group supports a number of Native organizations with grants in aid

toward self-help and developmental programs throughout the Province.

Northern Development Group:

The Northern Development Group is primarily a planning, research and monitoring agency. Much of the Group's work is done in close liaison with program Departments. It has a special research and planning responsibility in which the work of various Departments is assessed as a part of an over-all northern delivery system.

The Group also acts as a secretariat to the Northern Alberta Development Council.

The Northern Development Group is a small, but highly specialized component charged with the task of articulating a Northern Development Policy. The work of the Group has been directed toward this end and the members have been working in close co-operation with Government Departments in the areas of Transportation, Communications, Land Tenure, Utilities, Community Water Supply, and Local Government.

THE COUNCIL:

The Northern Alberta Development Council was re-established in 1973. The terms of reference which govern the Northern Alberta Development Council are found in Section 4, Chapter 259 of the Northern Alberta Development Council Act, as follows:

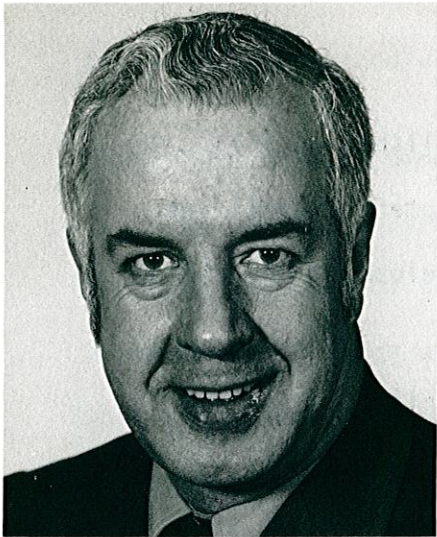
The functions of the Council are to investigate, plan, promote and co-ordinate practical measures to foster and advance development in Northern Alberta and to advise the Government thereon, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, may investigate and recommend on the requirements of the area in the matter of:

1. industrial development
2. transportation facilities
3. agriculture stabilization
4. Metis rehabilitation
5. educational facilities, and
6. local administration.

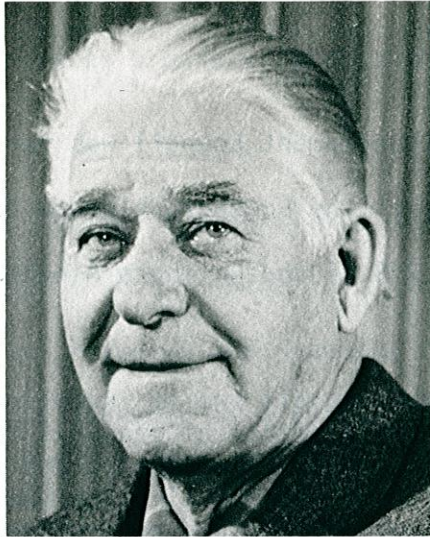
Seven members were appointed to the Council from the various regions in the North, which in terms of the Council's composition was divided into seven areas. These are: Mr. R. E. Duncan (Fort McMurray north, Area 1); Mrs. Bertha Clark (Fort McMurray south, Area 2); Mr. R. G. Steinhauer (St. Paul-Andrew, Area 3); Mr. I. W. Lawrence (High Prairie-Slave Lake, Area 4); Mr. L. J. Pelland, Jr. (Grande Prairie-Smoky River, Area 5); Mr. J. D. Fletcher (South Peace River, Area 6); and Mr. W. V. Napier (North Peace River, Area 7).

The newly appointed Council held its first meeting in Peace River in November, 1973. This was an organizational meeting and allowed Council members to meet one another and to discuss areas of high priority to ensure a well-planned, balanced development of Northern Alberta. A schedule for regular meetings during 1974 was determined and the role of the Council was reviewed.

This meeting concerned itself with aspirations of the Northern Alberta Development Council, and the hopes and objectives of the Council were outlined as



THE HONOURABLE J. ALLEN ADAIR
Chairman

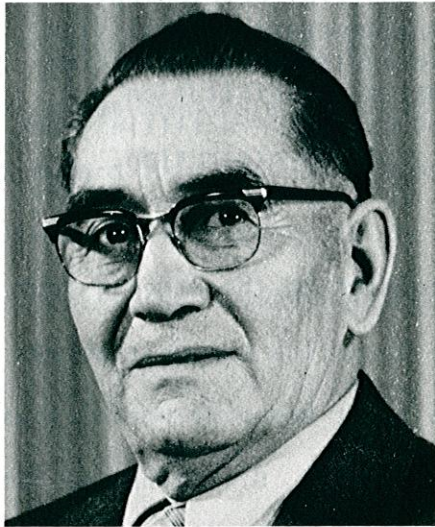


ROBERT DUNCAN
Deputy Chairman
(Area 1: Fort McMurray North)

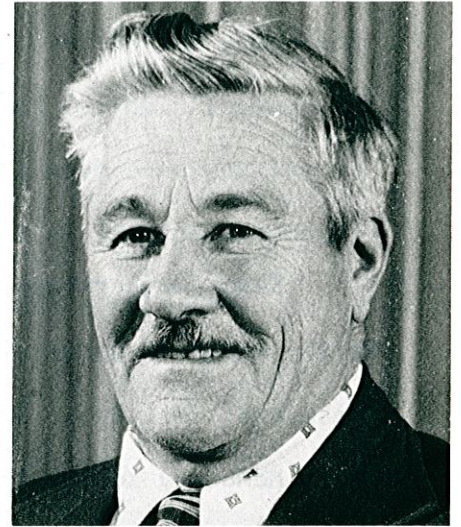
**NORTHERN ALBERTA
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**



BERTHA CLARK
(Area 2: Fort McMurray South)



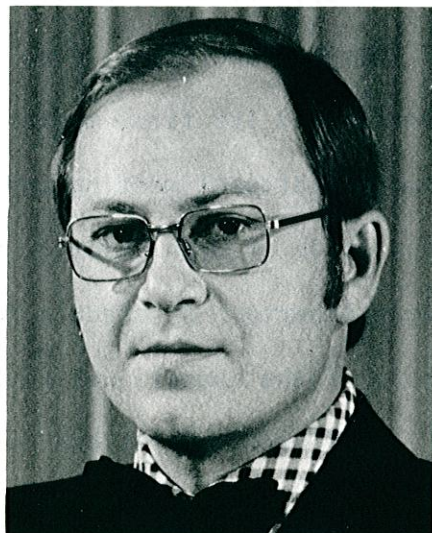
RALPH STEINHAUER
(Area 3: St. Paul — Andrew)



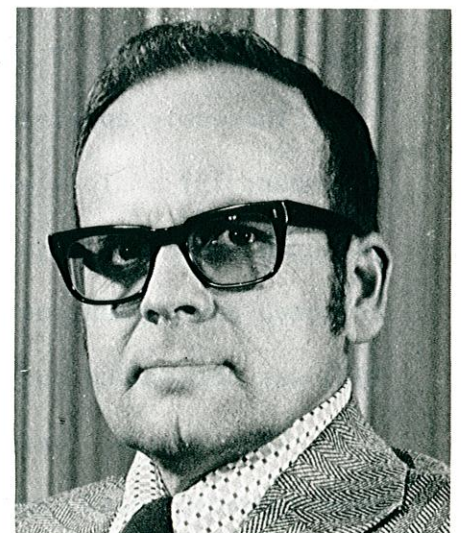
IKE LAWRENCE
(Area 4: High Prairie — Slave Lake)



LEN PELLAND JR.
(Area 5: Grande Prairie — Smoky River)

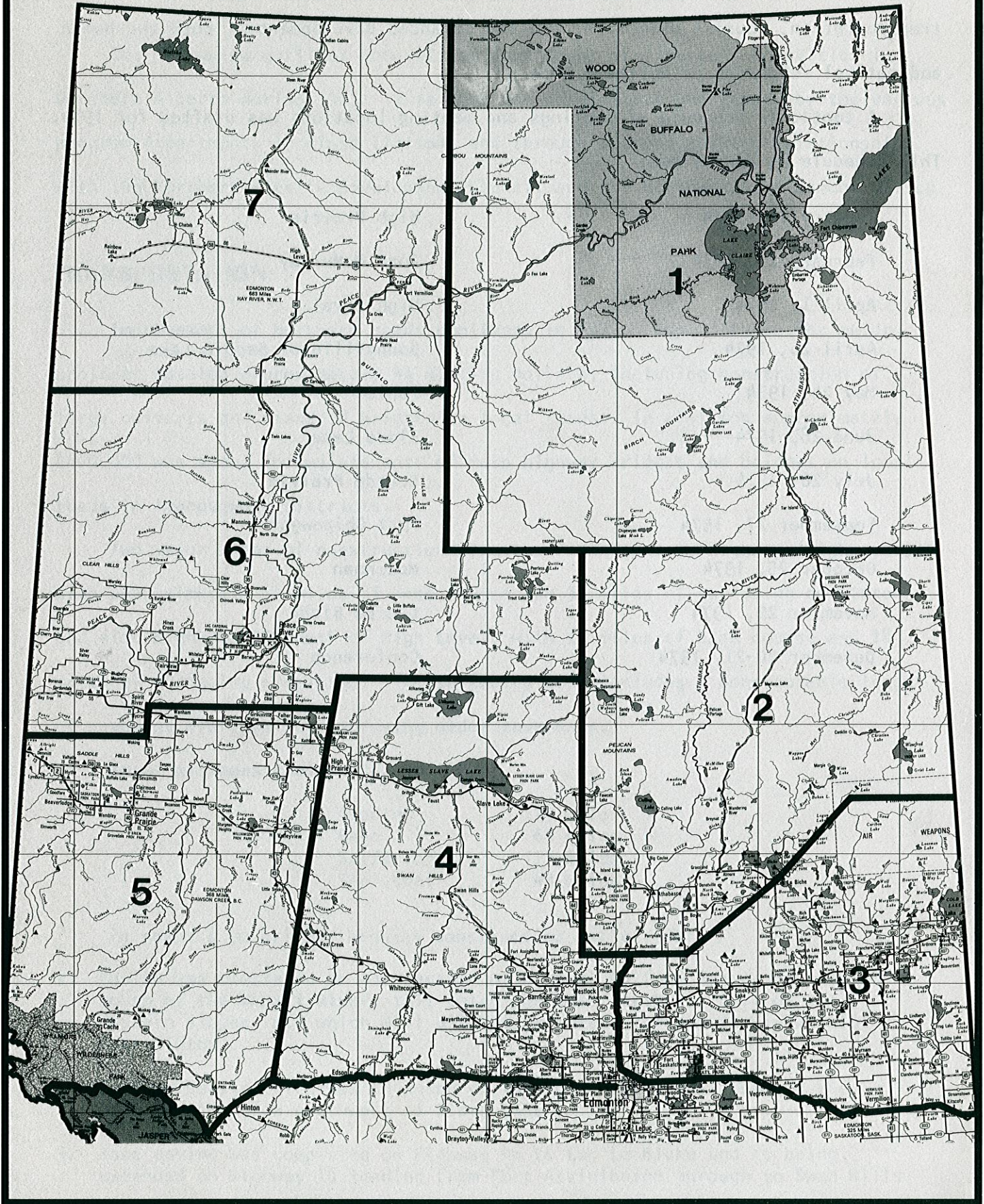


JIM FLETCHER
(Area 6: Peace River South)



WILLIAM NAPIER
(Area 7: Peace River North)

NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AREAS



seen by the individual members. The topics of major concern were communication, transportation, tourist promotion, and the balanced development of both the human and natural resources of Northern Alberta.

A tentative schedule of meetings and meeting locations was drafted for 1974. This schedule is as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| January 11, 1974 | High Prairie |
| February 22, 1974 | Fort McMurray |
| April 1, 1974 | High Level |
| April 26, 1974 | Bonnyville or Saddle Lake |
| May 24, 1974 | Fahler |
| June 28, 1974 | Slave Lake |
| July 26, 1974 | Grande Prairie |
| September 27, 1974 | Fort Chipewyan |
| October 25, 1974 | McLennan |
| November 22, 1974 | Lac La Biche |
| December 20-21, 1974 | Conference |

GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN NORTHERN ALBERTA:

The following outlines some of the Government of Alberta's activities in Northern Alberta during 1973. This work was carried out and funded by the various program departments in close liaison, and through a close working relationship with the Northern Alberta Development Council and the Northern Development Office.

TRANSPORTATION:

Improvement of Northern roads continued in 1973. Expenditures for major projects totaled approximately 4½ million dollars, including construction of large culverts and standard bridges on local roads. In addition approximately \$400,000 was spent for maintenance of main highway bridges and bridges on local roads in Improvement Districts.

Two major areas of construction were the Fort McMurray highway (Highway 63) with approximately 14 miles of base course and 30 miles of surfacing completed, and also Highway 35 south of High Level, with 29 miles of base course and 18 miles of surfacing completed. The surfacing work includes a considerable length of pavement overlays for improving older pavements.

Total mileages constructed in 1973:

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Grading | 49 miles |
| Base | 65 miles |
| Surfacing | 172 miles |
| Seal Coat | 43 miles |

In respect to primary highway construction activities:

1. Paving was completed on the section of Highway 40 from Grande Prairie to south of the Wapiti River, this being the most northerly part of the eastern slopes road which will ultimately extend through to Highway 16 near Hinton.
2. Further construction was advanced on the north industrial road in the Utikuma Lake area northwest of Slave Lake.
3. Base paving was completed on Highway 46 to Lac La Biche and is being extended on Highway 18 leading from Fort Assiniboine through to Swan Hills.

ENVIRONMENT:

The Athabasca Oil Sands, near Fort McMurray, drew considerable attention from the Department of the Environment during 1973. A study was made into the feasibility of a utility corridor to carry power lines, pipelines and other services between Edmonton and Fort McMurray. An assessment of the environmental impact of the Syncrude development at the oil sands was made by the company and reviewed by the Department of the Environment. The Conservation and Utilization Committee released a report on development strategy for the sands and formed task forces which investigated reclamation and hydrology research in the sands. Twenty companies with an interest in the area agreed to coordinate their research on the sands through the Department of the Environment's Research Secretariat, to avoid duplications of effort and to direct research to where it is most needed.

Co-operation continued with the federal and Saskatchewan governments in the Peace-Athabasca Delta project and the Environment Conservation Authority held hearings on plans to regulate water levels in the delta.

Various flood and erosion control projects were developed in the northern part of the province, including one to protect the watershed in the Swan Hills area. Soil erosion resulting from the removal of vegetation during petroleum exploration operations, has largely been controlled.

A study was started on hydro-electric potential and the feasibility of its development along the Athabasca River. A preliminary study into power development was completed for the Slave River.

The Department of the Environment administered the Canada Land Inventory program in Alberta and parts of the province's northwest were surveyed for outdoor recreation, ungulate, waterfowl and sport fisheries capabilities.

More than 5,000 acres of agricultural land were purchased around Lesser Slave Lake to relieve farmers from flooding. The land was leased back to them.

The Department of the Environment developed 160 wells in its program to

obtain potable water for Metis in the northern part of the province. This work required an expenditure of \$640,000 and 29 more wells are planned for completion by March 31, 1974 at a further cost of \$131,000. This will bring the total cost to \$771,000 and will provide well installation in:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Paddle Prairie and Cadotte | Elizabeth |
| Grande Cache | Owl River and Imperial Mills |
| East Prairie | Elinor Lake |
| Kikino | Chipewyan Lake |
| Caslan | Sandy Lake |
| Fishing Lake | |

LAND USE AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES:

Various research and survey programs associated with fish resources, big game populations, problem wildlife control, forestry resource developments, domestic grazing and potential recreation developments were carried out in numerous locations.

Transportation and accommodation assistance was provided to permit trappers from isolated communities in the North to attend meetings related to the amalgamation of trapper organizations. One of the more useful surveys was related to increasing the efficiency of commercial fish harvesting in Lesser Slave Lake, and part of this program was associated with the harvest of previously unusable species such as burbot and mullet to increase the resource base available to the fisherman.

The Parks Division carried out extensive replanting and landscaping programs at various locations. The Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park received considerable attention with the clearing of 105 new camping stall sites, major reclamation of borrow pits and old road cuts, the provision of 25 outdoor sanitary facilities with pumpout tanks, and this was coordinated with the establishment of

a permanent park office in the town of Slave Lake. Improvements were also made at Moonshine Lake Provincial Park. Planning for Youngs Point Provincial Park at Sturgeon Lake commenced with provision of a master plan developed by an engineering consultant. A major study was also carried out on the Entrance Provincial Park area by a consulting firm with the expectation that this park may be expanded in the future. The Gregoire Lake Provincial Park was officially opened in August of 1973, and already this new park has an adequate water supply and distribution system as well as boat launching facilities and an overnight campsite area of 50 units.

Although no new grazing reserves were created in the North in 1973, the seven areas that have now been set aside as grazing reserves provided grazing for 7,024 head of cattle supporting 233 patrons as well as 1,292 sheep provided by eight patrons.

Many large new forestry developments became either operational or were announced during 1973. In addition to the commencement of production of the Procter and Gamble pulp mill at Grande Prairie, the Forest Service allocated more than 200 million board feet of new timber supply in locations at Fox Creek, Whitecourt, Swan Hills and Fort McMurray. These new timber allocations should add about 24 million dollars to the value of forest products produced in Alberta without considering any economic multiplier factors. The Forest Service also invested approximately \$700,000 in reforestation and forest stand improvement in Northern Alberta. Airstrip improvements were made at Edson, Slave Lake and Fort Chipewyan.

A new firefighter incentive program was introduced in order to give greater recognition to the men that have provided a very useful service to the province to assist in controlling our forest fires.

NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES:

An Exploratory Drilling Incentive System was implemented to stimulate increased exploratory activity and to accelerate the discovery of additional crude oil and natural gas reserves in Alberta, effective January 1, 1973. The wells under this system were referred to as incentive wildcat wells prior to January 1, 1974 and are now known as incentive exploratory wells, and are certified as such by the Energy Resources Conservation Board's Geology Department.

During the period November, 1973 to January, 1974 there were 87 incentive wildcat wells certified of which 58 were north of Highway 16, and 93 incentive exploratory wells were certified in January, 1974 of which 67 were north of Highway 16. To this date, 25 incentive wildcat wells have been abandoned and 13 are standing, the remainder are still drilling. No data on the number of wells abandoned or standing has been received regarding the incentive exploratory wells.

AGRICULTURE:

Salvage of the 1972 egg crop, growing season conditions, and the market price of products lifted the hopes of Peace River area farmers. Enthusiasm was deflated somewhat, however, by frost damage to crops and honey production, and wet harvesting weather.

Farming in the Peace River area continues to expand, particularly in livestock production, marketing, extension programs, and financial management.

Grazing reserves are being developed in the Valleyview, Spirit River, and Fairview districts. By developing Specified Herd Areas, the services of artificial insemination technicians are being made more readily available. Veterinary clinics were approved for High Prairie, Valleyview and Manning. Staff assisted farmers with programs including dairy cattle importation, dairy herd improvement, grassland incentives, and native range improvement.

Courses in farm management and income tax seminars were held throughout the

region.

A commercial greenhouse began production in Grimshaw, and an alfalfa cubing plant has been constructed there. One other alfalfa cubing plant is presently under construction at Falher. A cheese plant is also planned for the area.

Information meetings on forward contracting for hogs and on rapeseed were held, and information on feed and grain problems was disseminated by telephone and personal contact.

Agriculture department home economists participated in the Metis School Lunch Program in many areas of northwestern Alberta, and organized Homemaker Clubs with Indian and Metis people in Fort Vermilion, Slave Lake, and High Level. In co-operation with health authorities, home economists conducted pre-natal classes in areas including Fort Vermilion, Valleyview, Slave Lake, Peace River and Fairview.

The Future Farmers of Alberta Program and a student farm employment program were introduced. Many farmers took advantage of the Livestock Facilities Program to construct livestock shelters and produce storage buildings.

Agricultural societies were formed in locations including Spirit River, Savanna, Hythe, Valleyview, and Berwyn. Several received financial assistance.

In the Fort McMurray area, agriculture department staff helped co-ordinate development. At present a small amount of farming is done in the area for local markets.

An egg producer, who began operations with financial help from the department, supplies Fort McMurray needs. Several agricultural societies were formed in the Fort McMurray area, several of which received government grants. Future departmental plans for the district include support and co-ordination of any kind of agricultural production envisioned.

CO-OPERATIVES:

During 1973 there were 31 co-operatives incorporated in the northern part of the province; eight of these were natural gas, two logging co-ops, two cattle co-ops,

one consumer association, one bus co-operative, six agricultural, four native land tenure, one co-operative farm and five sundry types.

EMPLOYMENT:

Safety Inspectional Services Division:

In addition to ensuring a safe environment for the citizens through the routine standards, inspectional and educational activities, special attention has been given to the major industrial development projects in Northern Alberta. Some of the major projects were the Procter and Gamble pulp mill at Grande Prairie, installations at the Rainbow Lake, Zama Lake, Nipisi, Redearth, Judy Creek and Mitsue oilfields, installations and additions to the Great Canadian Oil Sands plant at Fort McMurray and in the Slave Lake Region, the North American stud mill, Vanderwell Lumber facilities, R. Zeidler Ltd. veneer plant and the new Arcom Systems Manufacturing Ltd. plant.

Lesser Slave Lake Employment Counselling Project:

Several placement and counselling activities were funded or operated by the Manpower Division during 1973. The largest of these services in terms of staff, was the Slave Lake Manpower Mobility Program. The major objective of the project is to attempt to ensure the successful transition of people from isolated rural communities in the Lesser Slave Lake Special Area to the Town of Slave Lake where major employment opportunities are being created. The major thrust of the project is with regard to family relocation, adjustment and employment. However, in addition to this major thrust, the counsellors also serve a placement role for other people having difficulty in locating jobs.

Northeastern Alberta Manpower Development:

The Department of Manpower and Labour, through a planner from the Planning Secretariat, has been an active participant in the Northeastern Alberta Manpower Development Committee which was organized in April of 1973 under the auspices of

the Federal-Provincial Manpower Needs Committee. The broad objective of the Committee is the development of a comprehensive manpower plan directed towards establishment of policies and programs, based on the Syncrude project and associated developments from the construction to the operation stages, which will ensure that:

- (a) adequate staffing is provided for new job opportunities, and
- (b) local residents have the opportunity to take advantage of the expanding job potential.

A General Planning Report in August of 1973 provided information with respect to the projected labour demand, anticipated supply and shortages of labour, probable employment opportunities for local residents, training requirements for the jobs that will be available, the training capability existent within Northern Alberta, and the current local situation including an examination of the local labour force and the problems and needs of native communities. The report also included recommendations on various training, counselling and other support programs which will be required, as well as the organizations structures that will be necessary to co-ordinate and facilitate the programs which will be offered.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN ALBERTA:

Regional Services:

In general, Regional Services has carried on research and provided information to assist in forming new companies or expanding and improving existing businesses. Specifically, this has taken place in agriculture processing, manufacturing ranging from plastic bags to mobile homes, and in setting up retail stores. The Regional Offices in Peace River, Grande Prairie and St. Paul have been involved in developing a regional plan that will contribute to the economic development of Northwestern Canada. Some of the important regional and community activities are:

- (a) Creation of the Regional Services Program to encourage the economic development of Alberta's smaller centres.
- (b) Establishment of two additional regional offices at Edson and Grande Prairie to augment the Peace River and St. Paul Offices.
- (c) A model community economic development plan was prepared for the town of Peace River. This will serve as a guide for other towns to undertake an active economic development program. Similar plans have recently been prepared for the towns of Slave Lake, High Prairie, Fairview, High Level, Manning, Grimshaw, McLennan, Falher, Barrhead, Westlock, St. Paul, Bonnyville, Vermilion and Vegreville.
- (d) The preliminary steps were made towards the formation of a special area development project consisting of communities in the Lac La Biche area. A grant will be made to the project to enable it to carry out an intensive development effort. The project is expected to become operational in early 1974.

Assistance and/or information was provided to Boyle Forage Processors, Boyle; Houg Cement Company, Clyde; Brigadoon Enterprises, Grimshaw; Grimshaw Alfalfa Processors Ltd., Grimshaw; Falher Alfalfa Ltd., Falher; and Fox Creek Lumber Ltd., Fox Creek.

Assistance was also offered to approximately 35 other firms or individuals with smaller projects. Some of these have started operations while others are still in the proposal stage.

Alberta Travel:

Travel Alberta, in conjunction with the Travel Industry Association of Alberta, has developed four new Tourist Zones in the north. These zones are:

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Zone No. 6 | The Lakeland |
| Zone No. 8 | Land of the Mighty Peace |
| Zone No. 13 | Game Country |
| Zone No. 14 | Land of the Midnight Twilight |

Through the Travel Alberta Zone Assistance Program, funds are made available to the zones for the development and promotion of tourism within these areas. These funds have been greatly increased during the past two years.

Within each zone there is an organization consisting of private sector people who are associated with the parent organization, the Travel Industry Association of Alberta.

METIS HOUSING PROGRAM:

The overall objective of the Metis Housing Program is to provide adequate housing for those natives who do not have or are unable to provide their own housing at an acceptable standard. In sponsoring a Metis Housing Program, the Alberta Housing Corporation, in cooperation with the Office of Northern Development, will attempt to satisfy the following goals:

- (a) Establish a provincial responsibility for providing housing assistance to Metis people.
- (b) Assist in upgrading the housing standards of Native peoples.
- (c) To encourage a sense of personal responsibility and a pride in ownership through planned maintenance savings and an option to purchase.
- (d) To provide not only housing, but a counselling service which will attempt to encourage Native peoples to respond in a positive manner to a new environment.
- (e) To provide opportunities for local Native labour to be involved in construction of the units.

The general policy for the program has been designed to encourage the Native peoples to show initiative and responsibility in acquiring suitable housing within their economic means. The Alberta Housing Corporation will be responsible for the implementation of the policy in consultation with the Office of Northern Development. The involvement of any special Metis representative organization should be solicited for input which may reflect major changes and future decisions affecting the housing delivery system to the Native people.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Department of Advanced Education:

The Department of Advanced Education operates four post-secondary educational institutions in northern Alberta. Alberta Vocational Centres are located at Lac La Biche, Fort McMurray and Grouard while Agricultural and Vocational Colleges are located in Vermilion and Fairview. The Community Vocational Centre program

is based in Slave Lake with Centres being operated at about fifteen locations. The Rural Alberta Driver Training Program, initially designed to serve the D.R.E.E. designated region of northwest Alberta, was transferred to the Department of Advanced Education in April, 1973. A number of local Further Education Councils operated in the region.

The Alberta Vocational Centres tended to focus on academic upgrading and short, pre-vocational training. Vermilion and Fairview Colleges offered a wider range of programs which included career education, further education, and agricultural/technical programs. The Community Vocational Centre program in northwest Alberta is a continuing attempt to bring basic education opportunities to adults in isolated communities.

Rural Alberta Driver Training Program activities culminate typically in the Class 7 (learner's) and the Class 5 license for light commercial vehicles. This program aims to increase driver proficiency to the extent that vocational opportunities as career drivers becomes possible; increase the mobility of rural residents; and improve the driver safety record of rural residents.

Grande Prairie Regional College provides programs at the technical, college, and university transfer level.

Department of Education:

The department has been involved in a native education report and in multiculturalism activities in addition to civil service staff recruiting in many areas of the North.

Department of Municipal Affairs:

The Department of Municipal Affairs' Field Services Branch has in Improvement District Trust the sum of \$43,000 for the upgrading of the water system in Wabasca. The actual work involved will be done by the Department of Public Works, who own the majority of the system.

The Department will continue to work in connection with Metis Land Tenure

and the introduction of some form of local self-government in the so-called isolated communities.

Department of Health and Social Development;

In addition to the Department of Health and Social Development's normal health and social services in Northern Alberta, is the introduction of the school lunch program which was established and operated in the communities of Conklin, Paddle Prairie and Fishing Lake.

Department of Culture, Youth, and Recreation:

The Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation was recently re-organized to further increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services at the community level. A key item in this development was the establishment of 17 primary regions in the Province; grouped into three major areas: north, central, and south. Within each of these areas the delivery of Department services is co-ordinated by a regional co-ordinator.