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**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
1974**

**Alberta**

NORTHERN ALBERTA  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Edmonton, Alberta

To His Honour  
R. G. Steinhauer  
Lieutenant-Governor  
Province of Alberta

Sir:

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Allen Adair". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "J" and "A".

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

date: February 1, 1975

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## STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER

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

The year 1974 has been significant in the development of Northern Alberta. The newly re-appointed Northern Alberta Development Council has made an important contribution to that development through its contact with the public and its ability to advise government on program direction to enhance the economic and social evolution of the northern portion of the province.

The work of the Northern Alberta Development Council has done much to assist government to recognize the needs of the northern people and to design a delivery system of government services and relevant programs to meet their unique requirements.

The period of unprecedented growth to which I referred in the 1973 Annual Report is now upon us and government is working closely with industry, farm groups, municipal bodies and other interest groups to insure a development which brings benefit to the people of Northern Alberta as well as the other areas of the province and Canada, not only for this generation but for the generations to come.

This period of development is not always going to be without problems. With economic development often comes social concerns and the need for social adjustment. It is the intention of this government to insure that the economic development of the northern part of the province is linked closely to the social needs of Northern Alberta while at the same time recognizing the realities of provincial and other

world needs. The Northern Alberta Development Council will continue in the coming year to complement the work of the Members of the Legislative Assembly to insure that planning and action is implemented with a full understanding of northern conditions and with an awareness of the hopes and aspirations of the people of the north.

## **THE NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

The Northern Alberta Development Council is an advisory group to the Government of the Province of Alberta and has the responsibility of fostering economic and social development in Northern Alberta. The Northern Alberta Development Council is governed by the terms of reference found in Section 4, Chapter 259 of the Northern Alberta Development Council Act. Under the Act, the Council functions to investigate, plan, promote and co-ordinate practical measures to foster and advance development in Northern Alberta and to advise government thereon.

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. The Northern Alberta Development Council is chaired by the Honourable J. A. Adair, and consists of the chairman and seven appointed members. These members are:

1. Mr. R. E. Duncan (Fort McMurray North, Area 1)
2. Mrs. Bertha Clark (Fort McMurray South, Area 2)
3. Mr. R. G. Steinhauer (St. Paul-Andrew, Area 3)\*
4. Mr. I. W. Lawrence (High Prairie-Slave Lake, Area 4)
5. Mr. L. J. Pelland, Jr. (Grande Prairie-Smoky River, Area 5)
6. Mr. J. D. Fletcher (South Peace River, Area 6)
7. Mr. W. V. Napier (North Peace River, Area 7).

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\*Mr. R. G. Steinhauer resigned from his position on the Northern Alberta Development Council when he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor, Province of Alberta, in May 1974.

The Northern Alberta Development Council held ten meetings in Northern Alberta in 1974. The ten meeting locations were:

1. High Prairie, January 11
2. Fort McMurray, February 22
3. High Level, April 1
4. St. Paul, April 29
5. Falher, May 24
6. Slave Lake, June 27
7. Grande Prairie, September 27
8. Fort Chipewyan, October 21
9. McLennan, November 22, and
10. Lac La Biche, December 16.

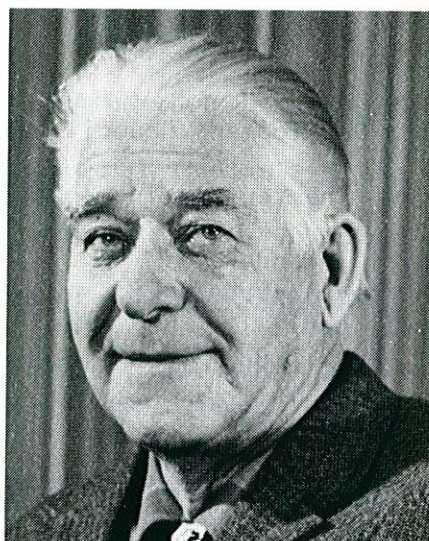
Eighty briefs were presented to Council containing in excess of 300 items of concern about which the Council conducted follow-up through support provided to the Council by the Northern Development Group. These specific concerns, along with the information and knowledge received by the Council members through their work in these areas, provide a better understanding of conditions and needs in Northern Alberta, assisting Council to move from the specifics of the concerns to making general recommendations to alleviate problems and provide an enhanced delivery system of government services in the north.

Areas of concern presented to the Northern Alberta Development Council through briefs or through the offices of Northern Development or Indian Metis Liaison Groups, which resulted in recommendations for program change or new program development were in the area of transportation, economic development, education and student assistance, municipal services, community infrastructure, social and health facilities and housing.

In all cases the Northern Alberta Development Council worked through the responsible program departments to respond to the requests presented to them. This involved the development of a close working



THE HONOURABLE J. ALLEN ADAIR  
Chairman



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

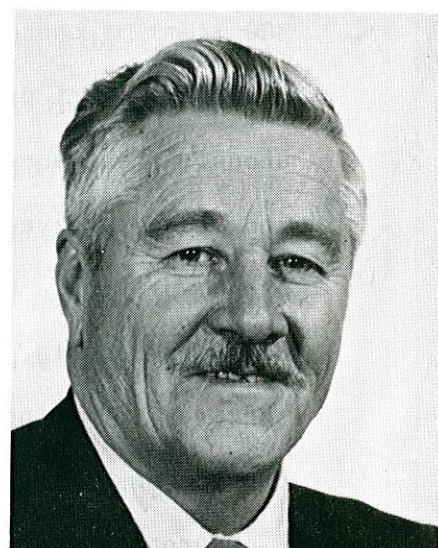
## NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



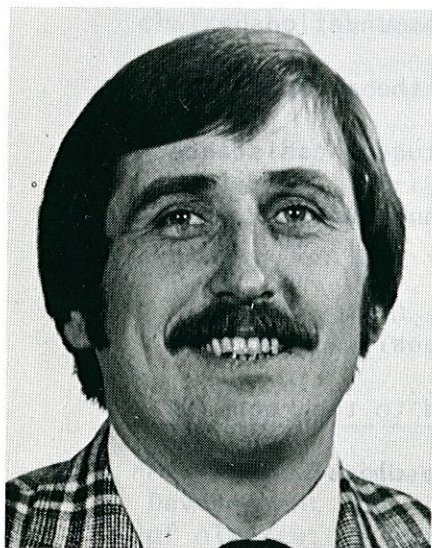
BERTHA CLARK  
(Area 2: Fort McMurray South)



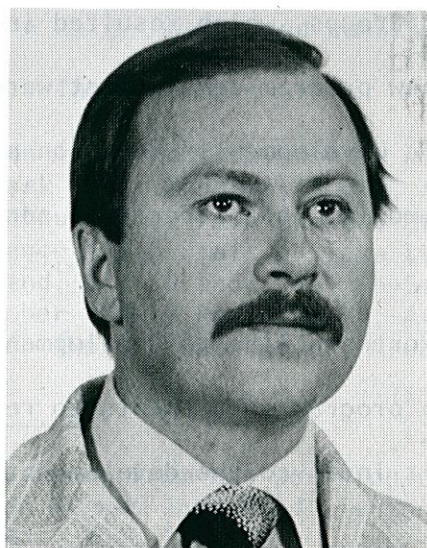
RALPH STEINHAUER  
(Area 3: St. Paul — Andrew)



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



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

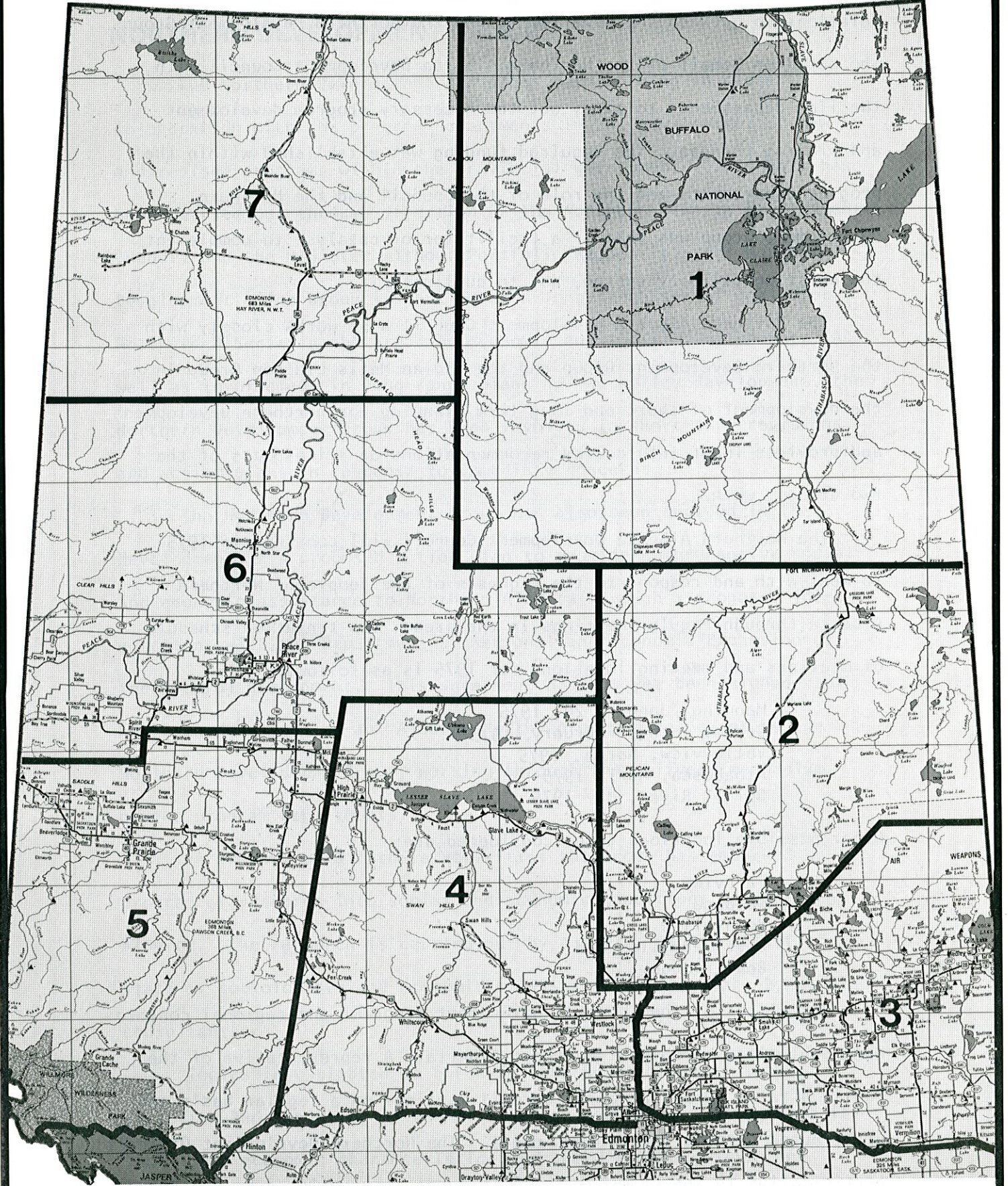


JIM FLETCHER  
(Area 6: Peace River South)



WILLIAM NAPIER  
(Area 7: Peace River North)

# NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AREAS





relationship between the departments and the Northern Development Group who acted on behalf of the Northern Alberta Development Council with the line departments to carry out the necessary program development and program changes. The required funding was established within the program departments and the role of the Council and the Northern Development Group was that of a facilitator or catalyst to complement the existing delivery system, not to duplicate it.

The Northern Alberta Development Council also works closely with the Northern Development Group and the Indian Metis Liaison Group in the development of short and long term planning for northern development and provides input into policy recommendations on all aspects of the two Groups' work.

The Northern Alberta Development Council will continue in 1975 to meet with and respond to the requests of the people of Northern Alberta through regular meetings in the area. The tentative schedule of meetings and meeting locations for 1975 is as follows:

Manning, January 20, 1975  
Grande Cache, February, 1975  
Valleyview, March, 1975  
Athabasca, April 1975  
Spirit River, May 1975.

Other possible locations to be considered are:

Fairview  
Wabasca  
Bonnyville  
Fort Vermilion and  
Beaverlodge.

Activities of the Council, government programs and regional concerns were publicized throughout Northern Alberta. A representative of the Public Affairs Bureau attended Council meetings on a regular basis and distributed information to news media. The Northern Development Office's participation in the Grimshaw Trade Fair was also assisted by the Bureau.

## **NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

The Northern Development Group has been working in close co-operation with the program departments in the development of new and revised programs within the provincial government. This work has been carried out through direction of the Northern Alberta Development Council and the Minister without Portfolio Responsible for Northern Development. The Group is working on a long-range set of goals for Northern Alberta in the areas of economic and social development. As well as involvement in long-range planning and policy development, the Northern Development Group has been involved in short-term revisions and action plans in response to immediate concerns.

The Northern Development Group has also been engaged in the development of a proposed action plan to provide comprehensive social and economic assistance to Northern Alberta through a proposed joint agreement with the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion of the Federal Government. This agreement has not yet been signed, but has been developed as an "Alberta North" proposed agreement by the Northern Development Group, working through the delivery mechanism of the program departments.

In support of all these activities the Group has embarked on a program of research into social and economic conditions in Northern Alberta. The research is carried out by a small, highly qualified staff of sociologists and economists, assisted as necessary by outside consultants.

Topics investigated so far have been quite broad in scope, surveying and reporting on such matters as population, along with its social and economic characteristics, northern transportation and

communications systems, education, the system of local government, and the structure of the northern economy. The information obtained is being used principally in formulation of the long-term goals.

Future research will concentrate on improving basic information about the north, and on supplying the data necessary for the design of programs to achieve the goals.

The Group has also undertaken studies for specific communities such as a water and sewer study for Wabasca-Desmarais, and a study of the granite deposits at Fort Chipewyan.

## **INDIAN METIS LIAISON GROUP**

The Indian Metis Liaison Group has continued its role of co-ordination of policy relating to Native people in the province to insure the delivery of necessary services to them. The Group has assisted Native organizations with grants in aid toward self-help and development of programs throughout the province.

The field staff of the Indian Metis Liaison Group have provided contact with the isolated areas of the province and with the concerns of the Native people.

Through the Indian Metis Liaison Group assistance has been provided to the Alberta Native Communications Society, Alberta Pe-Ta-Pun, Federation of Alberta Metis Settlements, Metis Association of Alberta, Grande Cache Native Area Development Committee, Alberta Association of Native Friendship Centres, Intercultural Developmental Educational Association, Voice of Alberta Native Women's Society and Native Counselling Services.

## **METIS HOUSING**

In 1973 the Province established a Metis Housing Program which was funded by the Indian Metis Liaison Group and delivered by the Alberta Housing Corporation. The purpose of the program was to make homes available to Native people who were living in unsuitable accommodation. During 1973-74, 61 new homes were occupied by Native families, and in 1974-75 the total will be increased to over 72.

The Metis Housing Program was revised late in 1974. The Alberta Housing Corporation continues to play a role in the delivery system, making funding available for homes under the terms of a recently signed agreement with Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Work at the local and community level is being carried out by the Metis Housing Branch of the Alberta Native Development Corporation. For 1975-76, a substantial increase has been allocated to the Program with a tentative target of 200 residential units to be commenced.

## **GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN NORTHERN ALBERTA**

The Government of Alberta carries out its programs through the responsible program departments. The Northern Alberta Development Council and the Northern Development Office work closely with these departments to insure a delivery of service which is relevant and in keeping with the needs of northern people.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Upgrading and improvement of roads was continued in 1974 by Highways and Transport. Considerable emphasis was placed this year on paving Highway 63 to Fort McMurray, with 61.4 miles of base course completed and top asphaltic concrete paving applied to 42.2 miles. This completed the base course on this highway, and it is planned to complete the surface paving early in 1975.

Six miles on the perimeter between Great Canadian Oil Sands and Syncrude were graded. This extended major road access to north of Mildred Lake near the airstrip.

Access was opened to the new Lyton Siding rail marshalling yards (NAR) at Fort McMurray. This involved grading of 8.6 miles.

Other major projects included extension of base course north of High Level to Hutch Lake, amounting to approximately 19 miles. The total amount of work on Highway 35 amounted to 28 miles of base course, 16.5 miles of surfacing and 56 miles of seal coat.

Grading extended to east of the Lawrence River on Highway 58. This involved the completion of 17 miles, and the Lawrence River Bridge will be completed this winter, giving important access to the area further east.

The Fort Vermilion Bridge was completed, and 5.5 miles of approach work was also completed. This bridge was a major undertaking and provides important access to service wood products industry on a year-round basis without the interruptions previously occasioned during the freezing and thawing periods.

Major construction continued on Secondary Road 967 north of Slave Lake into the timber resource areas and 16.8 miles of grading was completed near Utikuma Lake. Highways took over the license of occupation previously in existence from the junction of Secondary Road 754 (leading to Wabasca) north to Red Earth.

A Secondary Road project east of Peace River in the Cadotte Lake area was advanced, constructing approximately 13 miles. This road will lead eventually to Little Buffalo and further east to Red Earth where it will join the main secondary road north of Slave Lake.

A project of 11.8 miles was under contract on Secondary Road 813 north of Athabasca towards Calling Lake, with ultimate extension on to the more isolated communities.

Further important projects in 1975 will include new bridge construction at Whitecourt over the Athabasca River and major bridge expansion at Fort McMurray to provide for heavy industrial plant development in the tar sands zone.

A bridge across the Slave River near Mitsue Park will provide for heavy hauling of forest products to the Mitsue Park processing plants.

A bridge is being constructed over the Owl River north of Lac La Biche which will give access both for resource development and settlers and homesteaders of the area.

The road to the Heart Lake Indian Reserve and the bridge over the Piche River near Imperial Mills was completed.

A highway construction summary is as follows:

Grading	94 miles
Base course	134 miles
Surfacing	174 miles
Seal coating	95 miles.

Total expenditure in the north was \$29,200,000 for the construction summarized above.

Secondary and local road construction in the north zone summary is as follows:

Grading	512 miles
Oil treatment	345 miles
Paving	44 miles.

The appropriation for all this work amounts to approximately 14 million dollars.

Total bridge construction cost in the north amounted to approximately \$9,400,000.

Highways provided support to a program of assistance to municipalities in road oiling programs where traffic dust has been a problem and also to save gravel material which is becoming quite scarce in many zones.

Airport improvement and development in Northern Alberta was carried out by the provincial government and the Ministry of Transport. Northern airstrips which received funding under the Alberta Airport Development/Improvement Program, the Department of Industry and Commerce, were:

Barrhead	- \$50,000 for land acquisition,
High Prairie	- \$50,000 for land acquisition,
St. Paul	- \$50,000 for completion of runway paving and associated improvements,
Rainbow Lake	- \$83,000 for runway drainage and runway improvements,
Fort Vermilion	- \$12,000 for airport lighting,

Lac La Biche - \$114,000 for runway extension and paving.

Airport construction was also approved under the Ministry of Transport program:

Bonnyville - \$100,000 for new airport development including paving,  
High Prairie - \$100,000 for new airport development,  
and Peace River - \$371,000 for reconstructing runway and paving.

Under this program, construction was completed on the Fairview and Spirit River airstrips for work approved in 1973.

The airport program of Lands and Forests provided for the commencement of clearing on the Whitecourt and Loon River airports and 2,000 square yards of paving was completed at the Slave Lake airport. This paving was done on the parking lot and around the terminal building.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

One of the main activities in the land use area culminated in the recent announcement of an Oil Sands Corridor in Northeastern Alberta. This is regarded as enlightened environment macro-planning.

Major emphasis is being placed on Alberta Oil Sands research, and some of the steps that have been taken in 1974 include:

- the Task Force Report on Hydrology, Meteorology and Reclamation,
- various Syncrude studies and reports,
- tailings processing research,
- gathering systems study, and
- pipeline technology study.

Basic research programs have been crystallized in the areas of surface re-vegetation, organic toxicity studies, organic solubility and



dispersion studies, soil productivity studies, sulphurdioxide migration, etc. Many of these programs will involve joint participation between industry, the Federal and Provincial Governments.

Assistance has been offered to municipalities through the Alberta Municipal Sewage Treatment Assistance Program, the Alberta Municipal Waterworks Assistance Program and the Metis Water Supply Program.

More than twelve northern communities were assisted under these programs as well as the drilling of three hundred wells in isolated areas and the development of surface water supplies for Gift Lake, Wabasca-Desmarais, and Fort MacKay.

The total project costs of these developments was in excess of \$5 million, of which in excess of \$2 million was a direct provincial grant.

The Metis Water Supply Program was initiated in 1972 in response to the needs of the settlements of Janvier and Conklin. The program was fully operational in 1973 and, at that time, concentrated on water wells for Metis Colonies. During the latter part of 1973 the program started work on surface water supplies and the provision of water in settlements outside of recognized colonies.

The Metis Water Supply Program provided the following services for areas in Northern Alberta during 1974:

	DRY HOLES	ELECTRIC PUMPS	WELLS HAND PUMPS
<u>COLONIES</u>			
<u>Drilled</u>			
Elizabeth	0	16	4
Fishing Lake	8	17	0
East Prairie	0	5 flowing wells 7 electric pumps	1
<u>Bored</u>			
Big Prairie	9	16	2
<u>SETTLEMENTS</u>			
<u>Drilled</u>			
Cherry Grove	0	1	0
Gunn	0	1	0
<u>Bored</u>			
Lac La Biche Mission	0	6	1
Owl River	1	2	4
Calling Lake	10	0	0
Anzac	7	0	2
Peerless Lake	2	1	9
Trout Lake	0	0	6
Loon Lake	1	1	15
Sandy Lake	0	0	6
Chipewyan Lake	2	0	8
TOTALS	40	73	58

Other services performed by the Metis Water Supply Program were:

1. Service to Gift Lake Colony in the provision of water through the water treatment trailer supply was expanded to supply Northland School with raw lake water for their system.
2. A permanent water treatment facility is being constructed at Gift Lake.
3. A temporary water supply is being built at Fort MacKay.
4. Consultants were retained to study permanent supply solutions at Fort MacKay, Paddle Prairie and Little Buffalo.

5. Personnel will be co-operating with other agencies in the Wabasca-Desmarais water supply.
6. Provision of a waterline at Calling Lake to provide water for the school lunch program.
7. Supervision of the specifications and contracts for the water supply truck and cisterns for Wabasca-Desmarais.

Other Environment programs which provided a service to northern communities were the Alberta Biting Fly Control Program and the Biological Inventory of Lakes Study.

Planning continued in relation to the Peace-Athabasca Weir near Fort Chipewyan, on Rivere Des Rochers project, and designs are being finalized in anticipation of possible work commencement in early 1975.

Major municipal surface water supply programs developed in 1974 include the McLennan-Girouxville Canal, and the Lac St. Cyr Pipeline (St. Paul).

## **LAND USE & RENEWABLE RESOURCES**

Research was carried out through the various projects associated with fish resources, big game populations and habitat improvement. Some of these are long term projects which extended into 1974. These included:

- the Chip Lake Habitat Improvement Project Report,
- The Shiningbank Moose Range Improvement Project Report,
- Assessment of Mountain Goat Reproduction,
- An Analysis of Black Bear Depredation of Bee Hives,
- Effect of Hunting on an Alberta Moose Population, and
- Movement and Distribution of Moose Relative to Hunting Pressures and Range Quality.

Park improvement was carried out extensively in Northern Alberta with major improvements to Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park. This improvement commenced in 1973 but major portions of the contract were carried out in 1974 with the provision of rough grade road throughout the campgrounds and most of the 105 stalls. Sanitary units and portables were installed. Work was carried out in other parks including Cross Lake, Winagami Lake, Moonshine Lake, O'Brien, William A. Switzer, Pembina River, Thunder Lake, Long Lake, Sir Winston Churchill, Gregoire Lake, Garner Lake and Moose Lake. This work included such projects as construction of water distribution systems, boat launching ramps, parking lots, installation of sanitary facilities, tables and stoves, landscaping, paving, road construction, bridge and wier construction, and park clean-up.

On-going studies and assessment of park and recreation potential continued on the following areas:

Pinehurst-Seibert-Touchwood Lakes areas,  
Peerless-Graham Lakes,  
Clearwater area - east of Fort McMurray,  
Sand Dune area - south of Lake Athabasca,  
Namur Lakes area, and  
The Shield area - north of Lake Athabasca.

Timber harvesting rights were awarded and dispositions were granted to maintain existing operations to 14 firms in Northern Alberta. This amounted to in excess of 200 million board feet.

More than \$900,000 was spent on reforestation and timber stand improvement during the year.

Because of market conditions and world economic conditions, the lumber industry suffered a severe blow in 1974. This was reflected most dramatically in some of the more northern isolated operations. The closing of Swanson's operation at Embarras had a significant negative effect on Fort Chipewyan.

The general cut-back in forest products operations was felt in many of the small northern communities.

### **SLAVE LAKE REGIONAL MANAGEMENT**

Government programs within the Slave Lake Region have been co-ordinated through the Regional Management Committee of which a representative of the Northern Development Group is a member.

The Regional Management Committee was established to co-ordinate the DREE Special Area Agreement for Slave Lake. This Agreement will conclude on March 31, 1975 and the Management Committee, which has been meeting on a monthly basis, is decelerating its activities to reflect the termination of the joint funding.

### **NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES**

The Exploratory Drilling Incentive System which was implemented to stimulate increased exploratory activity and to accelerate the discovery of additional crude oil and natural gas reserves in Alberta continued in 1974. During the period January 1, 1974 to December 31, 1974 there were 630 incentive exploratory wells certified of which 345 were located in Northern Alberta. To this date, 334 wells have been abandoned, 176 are standing and 117 wells are still drilling.

Of the abandoned wells, 180 were located north of Highway 16 and of the standing wells, 107 are located in Northern Alberta. Of the wells still drilling, 58 are northern.

During 1974 some 60 coal explorations were conducted in the Province. A few of the programs were begun in 1974; others involved continuation of early programs and, in some instances they were located near existing mining operations. In the plains region, the main exploratory areas were from north to south, Clear Hills, Fox Creek, Marten Hills, Wabamun-Red Deer-Torrington, Tofield, Sheerness and Bow Island. The exploration activity in the mountain and foothills included programs north to south at Smoky River, Obed Mountain (near Hinton), Coalspur, Mountain Park, Rough Creek, Oldman River, Tent Mountain and Grassy Mountain near Blairmore.

## **COMMISSIONER, NORTHEASTERN ALBERTA**

In 1974 a Commissioner for the oil sands region of Northeastern Alberta was appointed. The role of the Commissioner is outlined in Bill 55, "The Northeastern Alberta Regional Commission Act" which states that it is the role of the Commissioner to co-ordinate and expedite the activities of the Provincial Government and its agencies and the local authorities in the region so that the public services and facilities and the accommodation which will be needed with the development of the oil sands shall be provided in an orderly and efficient manner.

The Northern Alberta Development Council will work in close liaison with the Commissioner of Northeastern Alberta and the appointment of two members of the Council to the Commissioner's Advisory Committee has provided a common bond and insured proper communication between the two groups.

## AGRICULTURE

The seven grazing reserves in operation in Northern Alberta provided grazing for 8,221 head of cattle owned by 292 patrons. These reserves provided additional grazing for 1,732 sheep.

There were no new lands opened for agricultural purposes in 1974. However, consideration is being given to opening up a few sections, east of Fort Vermilion, on the north side of the Peace River, sometime during 1975. As far as other future land openings are concerned, an interdepartmental committee was established to make investigations and recommendations on the need for opening new lands.

Dispositions were made to assist local settlers to obtain potential economic farm units through the issuing of farm development sales and leases, homestead sales, grazing leases and other types of agricultural dispositions.

Farmers in the Peace River area were forced to try and recover some of their 1973 crops in a spring harvest, but wet weather only allowed part of the harvest of approximately 1.7 million acres to be combined. Due to mice, snow damage and spring flooding only 65 percent of wheat, 50 percent of barley and 40 percent of oats and rapeseed were recovered. Most grain combined was low in grade and bushel weight. Frequent rains and wet soils delayed seeding well into June and forced many farmers to seed crops requiring a shorter growing period. In some cases producers summerfallowed fields they had originally intended for crops.

Frosts adversely affected bushel weights and grain quality resulting in lower grades. Many farmers were prompted by the unsettled September weather to thresh fields of grain that were still tough or damp. Consequently, grain dryers were used extensively. Higher

returns for crops offset to some extent poor yields and grades and rapidly increasing input costs.

The 1973-74 winter feeding period began early with a below average supply of feed. Livestock were only in fair to good condition in the spring of 1974. In some areas, cattle losses occurred from malnutrition when good quality feed supplies became exhausted. Calf scours was a common problem this spring, with many areas throughout the province reporting above average calf losses.

Haying operations resulted in good quality, above average yields of hay.

Most livestock entered the 1974-75 feeding period in good to excellent condition and feed grains and forage supplies for winter feeding appear to be adequate.

Unfavourable weather conditions and increased costs of packaged bees and queens reduced the net income of beekeepers substantially in 1974. (Arrangements have been finalized to obtain honey bee packages and queens from Mexico in 1975 rather than California.) Beekeepers were aided by a government program of grants for electrical fencing to protect beeyards from marauding bears.

The unfavourable weather in 1974 also reduced alfalfa leaf cutter bee activity, with a resultant serious decrease in alfalfa seed yield.

In the Peace River region native small fruits were harvested for jam and jelly processing trials. Marketing to test consumer acceptance will begin in 1975.

Two veterinary clinics to be built under the ARDA III program were completed at Edson and High Prairie and sites for 1974 clinics were announced for Manning and Valleyview. A grant of \$5,000 was made



to the new veterinary practice at High Prairie to assist in purchase of equipment, etc.

Major projects to aid an orderly agricultural development were developed by the Fort McMurray Agricultural Development Task Force. A 200-acre lease was taken out for forage crop research, market gardens were promoted for individuals on leased land and recreational land was developed.

From the 9,000 farm families in the Peace River region, 275 applications were made for loans from the Agricultural Development Corporation, of which 169 were approved to a value of \$5,330,844. Seventy-three were rejected; eight withdrawn; and 25 were in the process at year end. The federal-provincial small farms development program had 234 applications and 186 grants were made.

Promotion of a cheese plant in the Peace River area has resulted in an economic feasibility study being undertaken as a necessity before financing can be suggested. A vegetable co-op was formed to provide an outlet for producers in the Peace Valley. The Peace River Fluid Milk Producers organized a branch to the provincial association. Three alfalfa processing plants were in operation in 1974, and another is beginning construction.

A rapeseed processing plant is under construction. Assistance was provided to producers interested in a Fine Seeds Marketing Commission.

In the latter part of the year, definitive steps were taken to co-operate with the Department of Social Development to assess and help with farm family financial needs.

Home economists were involved in farm housing, nutrition projects, Metis School Lunch Programs, and Food and Nutrition in Schools Programs in the eastern part of the region. Co-operation with other agencies at Slave Lake developed a Homemaker Aid Program to help low income families.

## **EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING**

### **Career Planning & Placement**

The Employment Counselling and Relocation Program is now operating in Slave Lake. The objective of the program is to assist Native people living in rural areas to relocate and to adjust to the more industrial and urban centre of Slave Lake, where job opportunities are available.

There are approximately 40 families in the project now. Plans are being developed, in co-operation with the Alberta Housing Corporation, to expand the program in Slave Lake and extend a similar service to Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray.

### **Manpower Training**

#### (a) Industrial Employment Training Branch

This Branch is responsible for the following activities in Northern Alberta:

(i) Training on-the-job: A program presented under the aegis of the Canada Manpower Training Program whereby employers are reimbursed a portion of the wages paid to new hires in return for the provision of training by employers. For example:

- Hinton Pulp and Woodcutters - 20 Native people trained to operate and maintain skidding machines and power saws for forestry occupations. Basic life skills training was a component of this program.

- Smith Federated Co-operatives Ltd. - eight trainees involved in an 18-week woods operation program.
- Beaverlodge Meat Market - one trainee involved in a 12-week meat cutting program.
- Grande Prairie Overhead Door Co. - two trainees completed a program on the installation of industrial doors.

(ii) Training in Industry: A program to provide for training presented within industry by an employer on behalf of his own employees. Training in industry may be used to develop skills or impart knowledge to employees at many occupational levels. For example:

- Grande Prairie Procter & Gamble Cellulose Ltd. - 30 trainees completed a program on electronics and transformers enabling them to function as Process Technicians.
- Fort McMurray Great Canadian Oil Sands Ltd. - 15 trainees enrolled in a draftsman training program.
- Grande Prairie, Dr. G. E. Utas - one trainee completed a 7-week program in Intra Oral Dental Assisting.

(iii) Training Committees: In support of the manpower planning activities of employers facing labour shortages, the Industrial Employment Training Branch has participated in a facilitating manner on the following committees:

- the Alberta Restaurant Association,
- the Oilfield Haulers Association,
- the Alberta Motor Transport Association,
- the Alberta Federation of Gas Co-operatives, and
- the Alberta Forest Products Association.

(iv) Appropriation 1728: This is a \$2 million manpower training and development fund administered by the Office of the Co-ordinator of Manpower Training under the direction of the Cabinet Committee on Employment. The Appropriation is used to implement, supplement, complement and fill

funding gaps that occur in new or existing manpower development programs.

- the first project to be funded from Appropriation 1728 was a heavy equipment operators training program operated by the Alberta Native Development Corporation for 24 Native people on site at the Cold Lake Reserve.
- Contact Airways - to train one person in Fort McMurray as an aircraft maintenance engineer.

(b) Apprenticeship and Tradesmen's Qualifications Branch

- (i) The full range of services with regard to all the thirty-six designated trades available to every person in the province.
- (ii) A regional office will be established in Fort McMurray when space is available; meanwhile that area continues to be served by the Edmonton Regional Office.
- (iii) Arrangements have been completed to offer training classes for welder apprentices in Fort McMurray.
- (iv) The Apprenticeship Branch assists the Fort McMurray Alberta Vocational Centre by examining students on completion of pre-employment classes in the following trades categories: welder, plumber, pipefitter, steamfitter, carpenter, motor mechanic, heavy duty mechanic, cook and pre-apprenticeship training. Negotiations are underway to establish training for other trades at the Fort McMurray Regional College.
- (v) The Apprenticeship Program in Northwestern Alberta is administered by the Regional Office in Grande Prairie. Examinations have been held for eligible candidates at the Peace River Correctional Institute, the Town of Peace River, Fairview and Grande Prairie.
- (vi) Training in the following trades is provided for apprentices at the Fairview College: motor mechanic, heavy duty mechanic and welder.

## **Employment Development**

### (a) Priority Employment Program

The objective of this program is to provide development opportunities for Albertans in geographic areas experiencing high employment and for special needs groups experiencing employment difficulties.

Projects in Northern Alberta under this program were funded to a value of \$72,000.

### (b) Summer Temporary Employment Program

The objective of this program is to provide employment opportunities for the youth of Alberta during the summer months when the demand for jobs is high.

Projects in Northern Alberta under this program were funded to a value of \$15,000.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

This year has seen major economic development and industrial development in the Fort McMurray area of the province. With the commencement of construction on the Syncrude Plant and major housing and town infrastructure development in Fort McMurray, employment and business opportunities have been significant.

As well as this major development, significant planning and initiation has commenced in other parts of Northern Alberta.

The regional economic development representatives throughout Alberta have two major fields of activity: community economic development and business development. Regional Service Officers are working out

of Grande Prairie, Peace River, Edson and St. Paul, serving 21 northern Alberta communities in formation of local economic development committees and preparation of economic development plans to guide each community's development efforts.

On the business development side, work has been carried out to provide assistance to a number of businesses in the areas of obtaining financing, business counselling, market research and technical assistance.

Under this program more than twenty companies and businesses in Northern Alberta were helped. These enterprises included concrete plants, bakeries, gas stations, confectionaries, truck body manufacturing plants, restaurants, shopping centres, motels and rapeseed crushing plants.

Through the Co-operatives Activities Branch work was carried out in relation to a cost production correlation for sawmill operations, support was given to the Athabasca Fish Co-operative at Fort Chipewyan, and a feasibility study of the Lac La Biche Fish Co-op was conducted.

The establishment of the Alberta Native Development Corporation, a joint venture between the Indian Association of Alberta and the Metis Association of Alberta, designed to provide assistance to Native people to become involved in oil sands development and in related economic and employment opportunities has been a significant move, supported financially by the government of Alberta, toward involving Native people in the economic development of Northern Alberta.

## **TRAVEL ALBERTA**

Through Travel Alberta, funds are made available to zones for the development and promotion of tourism within zones. Provision of

travel information services is provided through a Travel Alberta information trailer operated by the individual Tourist Zones, or by a Travel Alberta Travel Information Teepee.

Northern Alberta is served by Zones 6, 7, 8, 13 and 14. In 1974 these zones received:

Zone 6

1. 1974 Travel Alberta Zone Assistance Program (TAZAP) grant funding \$15,000
2. Travel Alberta at Lloydminster; Zone-operated trailer at Bonnyville.

Zone 7

1. 1974 TAZAP grant funding 13,500
2. Zone-operated trailer at Grande Cache.

Zone 8

1. 1974 TAZAP grant funding 12,125
2. Zone-operated trailer at Peace River.

Zone 13

1. 1974 TAZAP grant funding 12,250
2. Travel Alberta teepee located at Dawson Creek.

Zone 14

1. 1974 TAZAP grant funding 14,500
2. Zone-operated trailer at Clyde Corner.

## **COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **Education**

Two regional service units, one at Lac La Biche and another at Slave Lake, offered counselling, student support and program development services in Northern Alberta.

Two studies were commissioned to evaluate educational needs in the north. The Downey Report, "Towards a System of Adult Education for

Northwestern Alberta and Northeastern British Columbia" (L. W. Downey Research Associates Ltd.) was completed in February, 1974. The Ingram Report, "Towards an Interprovincial Community College" (Post-secondary Education in East Central Alberta and West Central Saskatchewan) (Ingram, Kelsey, Konrad and Small; Department of Educational Administration, University of Alberta) was submitted in July, 1974.

Planning was initiated for the development of a permanent campus for the Alberta Vocational Centre at Fort McMurray. The Lac La Biche Alberta Vocational Centre became fully operational with emphasis on out-reach mobile programming. The Alberta Vocational Centre at Grouard continued program development for Native people both on a residential and on an out-reach basis. During 1974 the construction of the Grande Prairie Regional College was completed.

Twenty Community Vocational Centres were maintained in the northwest. These centres offered community-based programs and services to meet community-identified educational needs using native educational technicians. With the continued support of Native groups, the Rural Alberta Driver Training Program was expanded in regions where private companies did not serve.

The Northern Alberta Development Council Student Bursary Program was developed through co-operative effort of the Student Finance Board and the Northern Development Group. This program provides for assistance to approximately 50 students per year to attend post-secondary educational institutions. The program will take in new students each year until after four years when the program will level off with provision for assistance for approximately 200 students.



The first year of the program was highly successful. There were 185 applications received, with 62 students receiving in excess of \$130,000 in assistance. As well, 120 of the other students who applied were directed to alternate sources of assistance either through provincial programs or Canada Student Loans.

In 1974 there were 139 Early Childhood Services programs with an enrolment of 4,604 children operating north of Highway 16. Of this total, 2,280 children are being funded at \$405 per capita, the amount granted to "high priority" areas. The criteria used to designate "high priority" areas are health, environmental and educational factors.

The Department of Education is co-operating closely with the Northern Development Group in a current appraisal and review which is being made of the operation of the Northland School Division. This project has taken the Study Group to many northern communities for public meetings and discussions about education with northern residents. When completed the report of the Study Group will provide guidance to provincial and local school authorities in the provision of educational services in Northern Alberta for several years to come.

The Educational Opportunity Fund involves compensatory projects north of Highway 16. Presently 17 school districts have projects to improve educational programming for disadvantaged pupils. Most of these projects concentrate on basic skills and self image. Total funding for 1974 is \$716,609.

The Priority Employment Program and Summer Temporary Employment Program projects provided opportunities for liaison with persons in various parts of the province, both Native and non-Native, who were

interested in studies pertaining to Canada's Native people. In addition, the work of the project personnel resulted in materials for three publications. These are presently in the process of preparation for printing. They will include:

(1) A handbook for teachers on inter-cultural education. The principal author of this work is Miss Emma La Roque. This publication is intended as a document which will provide information to teachers concerning people of Native background. It is felt that it may help "sensitize" teachers to differences between Native and dominant Canadian cultures. However, teachers and university professors who have had an opportunity to examine this work in manuscript form suggest that it may also be useful as a social studies reference and as a textbook for use in some university programs.

(2) An annotated bibliography of resource materials pertaining to Indian and Metis people and their cultures.

(3) A teacher's guide to indicate ways in which the other two publications may be used. This guide will also suggest ways in which Native studies components may be incorporated into the existing curricula.

The original contract between the Alberta Department of Education and the Blue Quills Native Education Council relative to development of the Cree Language Curriculum expired on March 31, 1974. A new contract for the current year is now in force. Consultants from the Department of Education have been working on this project. New materials of various kinds have been produced, including print material with accompanying illustrations, slides, audio cassettes and video tapes. A curriculum guide is in preparation.

The Ad Hoc Policy Committee (Prospects-Proposals) continues to study needs in the area of Cross Cultural Education in Alberta. Proposals will be generated by committee members for consideration as possible models which might be pursued as community-based curriculum development projects. Furthermore, such proposals will be welcomed from anyone who may be willing to suggest directions in which this committee might wish to move.

The Cross Cultural Education Ad Hoc Curriculum Committee recommends that the request from the St. Paul School District to introduce the Cree 15 curriculum be approved. This is the course developed jointly in the project centred at the Blue Quills School. The recommendation is for introduction commencing in the fall of 1975, as an experimental program for two years, with evaluation and consideration of further approvals to follow the pilot period along with further development of the curriculum.

### **Municipal Services**

In addition to the on-going services covered by general municipal administration which provide for waste disposal, street lighting, street maintenance, and other community services, important projects which were implemented in 1974 were:

(a) Ambulance services were subsidized in:

- isolated communities in Improvement District 17,
- the Town of Slave Lake (also for I.D. 17 residents),
- the Town of Fairview for I.D.s 20 and 21,
- the County of Athabasca for I.D. 17,
- the Town of Fort McMurray for I.D. 18.

(b) Special recreation grants were paid to:

- Village of Nampa from I.D. 17 (\$50,000),
- Town of Swan Hills from I.D. 17 (\$75,000),
- Towns of Bonnyville and Cold Lake and the Village of Glendon received \$2,000 each from I.D. 18.

(c) A new Recreation Board was formed in the Widewater-Canyon Creek area.

(d) A used tank truck was supplied to the Hamlet of Jousard for fire-fighting purposes, and various items of hand equipment were supplied to other locations in I.D. 17 and I.D. 23.

(e) New water supplies, centrally located, were established at Canyon Creek-Widewater in I.D. 17, Webberville in I.D. 22, North Star in

I.D. 22, Marie-Reine in I.D. 17, and an extension was made to the Fort Vermilion water system.

- (f) A water truck delivery system has been established in Wabasca-Desmarais and Fort MacKay. These systems are being installed and will be operative in 1975.

During 1974 nineteen telephone exchanges were connected on a toll-free basis with neighbouring communities. These centres are the first of a total of 66 exchanges to receive Extended Area Service (EAS) or Extended Flat Rate Calling (EFRC) during the 1974-75 period. They are as follows:

Hines Creek-Worsley	Marlboro-Edson
Hines Creek-Fairview	Lloydminster-Marshall
Berwyn-Grimshaw	Glendon-St. Paul
Dixonville-Grimshaw	Newbrook-Thorhild
Fort Vermilion-La Crete	Plamondon-Lac La Biche
Wembley-Grande Prairie	

1974 marked the completion of a 10-year Rural 4-Party Buried Service Program with Jousard and Wabamum rural areas receiving the service.

A modern, 5400-line Electronic Switching Exchange Office was constructed to meet the growing needs of people and industry involved in the Athabasca Tar Sands Development.

At Jousard and Wabasca-Desmarais, old-style manual type offices, requiring a local operator, were replaced with modern automatic dial exchange offices. These installations are considered as significant events since Wabasca and Jousard were the last two centres in Alberta on manual service with all calls, both local and long distance, handled by a resident operator.

Ten telephone exchange offices whose long distance calls were routed through the Edson Toll Centre are now able to dial direct, by-passing the operator. They are: Cadomin, Edson, Grande Cache, Hinton, Jasper, Jasper East, Marlboro, Niton Junction, Peers and Robb.

Emergency public telephones were installed at the Windfall Road Junction and Two Creeks Road Junction on Highway 43 (Fox Creek area).

Anzac and Fort MacKay received emergency coin-operated radio telephone and in Wabasca-Desmarais a new dial-type telephone service was introduced.

### **Electrification**

In 1974 the Government of Alberta announced the Isolated Communities Electrification Program, a program of installing electrical distribution systems in the isolated communities of Northern Alberta that do not yet have electrical power service. It is anticipated that new systems will be installed in the communities of Sandy Lake, Cadotte Lake and Little Buffalo by the spring of 1975 and the distribution system in Loon Lake is presently being completed.

As part of the program, it is expected that distribution systems will be installed in Peerless Lake and Trout Lake in 1975 and in Chipewyan Lake in 1976.

In addition to this, the Northern Alberta Electrification Committee is looking into the problem of supplying electrical power to the community of Carcajou and the residents of the area around Grande Cache.

During 1974, approximately 2,415 new Rural Electrification Association services were built in Northern Alberta.

## **Rural Gas Co-operatives**

In 1974, five gas co-operatives were incorporated in Northern Alberta, making a total of 20. Approximately 3,000 farm or isolated rural customers are now burning gas as co-operative members.

## **Health & Social Development**

In July, 1974 the Northern Health and Social Services Board Health Unit was formed. This board was formed to plan, integrate, co-ordinate and administer health and social services in the High Level-Fort Vermilion area on a demonstration project basis. This is a three-year demonstration project.

The Opportunity Corps provides interim employment for the disadvantaged, who were awaiting specific jobs in industry. The main emphasis of the Opportunity Corps projects is the development of industrial skills through on-the-job experience and training. The Opportunity Corps operated in Slave Lake area with a total budget of \$616,030 and expanded its program to Janvier with a budget of \$200,000 for the period July 1974 to March 1975.

Other programs provided for the health and social needs of northern people through the on-going delivery system.

Twelve new Metis School Lunch Programs were initiated for the school children in northern Metis communities. The costs of the program vary according to numerous factors; they range from 64¢ per meal in Faust, an easily accessible region with high student population to \$1.89 per meal in Conklin, a remote, low-student area. The average cost of all programs is \$1.10. The total number of meals per day varies, but is averaging approximately 1,000.

In 1974 two new health units were established for Fort McMurray and district and for High Level-Fort Vermilion. Health services were improved in the isolated communities area with three nurses being placed at Wabasca and increased nursing visits to Trout Lake, Peerless Lake, Sandy Lake and Chipewyan Lake. Medical coverage was increased by a visiting physician for Desmarais, Trout Lake, Peerless Lake, Chipewyan Lake, Loon Lake and Cabin and Sandy Lakes.

In June the first Community Health Aide Training Program produced its first graduates. Of this class, six graduates are working as Community Health Aides in Northern Alberta.

In 1974 a mobile dental unit was stationed at Slave Lake and High Level and was scheduled to be moved early in 1975. This project operates as a joint venture between the Government of Alberta and the University of Alberta, Faculty of Dentistry, and excellent community support has been received for the project.

The Preventive Social Services Branch acts in an advisory and consultive capacity to municipalities interested in establishing preventive social services. These programs are designed to lead to self-support and the strengthening of family life and could include home-maker services; educational, retraining and recreational facilities; family planning; marital counselling, etc. Each interested municipality or group of municipalities determines its own preventive needs, with 80% of the actual and administrative costs returned to them for any approved program.

The Slave Lake Area was asked to be established as a Ministerial project and served the isolated Native communities of Calling Lake, Smith, Fort Chipewyan, Atikameg and Wabasca. The Isolated Communities

Advisory Board and its field worker were funded as a Preventive Social Services project to provide local input into the Preventive Social Services programming as local governments are not otherwise involved.

### **Culture, Youth & Recreation**

The Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation continued to provide service to Northern Alberta in 1974.

In Recreation Development almost \$18,000 in Operational Assistance was provided under Alberta Regulation 198/73 while capital financial assistance to northern communities totalled \$386,339 under Project Co-operation. In addition, clinics, seminars and workshops dealing with such varied recreational pursuits as residential summer camps, school outdoor education, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, camp counsellor training, pre-retirement programs, recreation for the handicapped, etc. touched all segments of northern society including the physically and mentally handicapped, the aged and the very young.

The Lac Ste. Anne area was the topic of a documentary film on the annual pilgrimage to Lac St. Anne. The film is expected to be completed early in 1975. Tape recorded interviews of Native traditions as related by the Native peoples continues to be a joint effort between the Native peoples and the Provincial Museum.

In the area of Cultural Development, annual grants totalling nearly \$37,000 were paid to public libraries in Northern Alberta. As well, once a week for nearly five weeks, five Edmonton writers flew to the Wabasca-Desmarais area of the Northlands School Division to instruct approximately 500 children in the techniques of creative writing. Drama workshops in Cold Lake, both in the Centre and on the



Elizabeth Colony itself, were among other significant events conducted by the Cultural Development Division.

In the area of Community Youth Development, the Alberta Service Corps volunteers worked in several Northern Alberta communities on a variety of youth community service projects. Youth employment centres were established in several northern communities and youth travel and exchange opportunities were accorded students from sixteen separate northern communities. The 4-H and Junior Forest Warden Clubs continued to function in Northern Alberta with a total membership of 3,990 in 4-H and 430 members in Junior Forest Wardens. In addition, grants, workshops and other assistance in the Early Childhood Services field enabled many children to become more familiar with Native crafts, traditions, culture, legends and skills.

Services of Culture, Youth and Recreation are often delivered through the Regional Offices of the Field Services Division. With regional offices located in Grande Prairie, High Prairie, Peace River, Slave Lake and Fort McMurray, a total of nine locally based staff (Regional Representatives) are available to serve the residents of the north. On the one hand the Regional representative acts to increase community potential by encouraging increased participation, and a general widening of views of what is possible. On the other hand, he provides information to the community regarding resources available, aids in the identification of instances in which they might be applied, and assists in their delivery.

The impact of the Special Programs component of Culture, Youth and Recreation on northern communities also has been significant with the Priority Employment Program (P.E.P.) 1973/74; the Student Temporary

Employment Program (STEP) 1974; the Small Business Student Opportunity Program; and, the Community Hall Improvement Program 1974/75 all playing an active role. Through these programs - community halls were upgraded; small businesses employed students they might not otherwise have been able to hire (and students received valuable training in return); and, many other persons received valuable work experiences. At the same time, projects for the handicapped and senior citizens were undertaken while other projects dealing with Community Television, etc. were successfully carried out.

The Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation encourages and invites the citizens of the northern areas of Alberta to make their needs known and to indicate how services can best be improved.

### **Attorney-General**

Native Counselling Services have been extended to most Provincial Judges' circuits in the northern half of the province. Circuit Provincial Judges have been advised to assist the Native Court Workers in obtaining legal aid for Native people.

### **Public Works**

A number of facilities designed to serve community needs were either planned or undertaken in 1974. In Janvier the integration of the former Newstart facilities with existing facilities of Northland School Division No. 61 and a new activity centre (with sewage and water systems) was officially opened November 19, 1974.

In Wabasca a new sewage lagoon complete with lift station force main and gravity lines was completed this fall replacing the existing

lagoon. The new lagoon will serve as the first stage of a municipal sewage system as Wabasca develops.

The Poundmaker Lodge which is a residential treatment facility run by and for the Native alcoholic in the former Indian residential school at St. Albert is now operational with accommodation for 22 patients.

The Government of Alberta is presently supporting the Bonnyville Indian Metis Rehabilitation Centre for the treatment of alcoholism under the direction of a local Indian/Metis group.

As a result of discussions between the Town of Peace River, the Peace River School Division and the Department of Public Works, the Alberta Government Service Centre proposed for the Town of Peace River has become a multiple use development owned jointly by the Town of Peace River and the Province.

This is a new concept in real estate development in which close liaison must be maintained with the occupants of a joint Provincial/Town Cultural and Service complex throughout the life of the property, from initial negotiation, the planning, the physical structure, and any ongoing improvements. The final development will encompass a community service complex containing such facilities as a permanent town library, police service centre, recreation facilities, town offices, as well as a provincial building, all of which will be centrally located and accessible to all citizens of the Town of Peace River and the surrounding area.

In Fort McMurray a new facility is to be constructed to replace the existing Provincial Building. It is intended that the Town and Province negotiate an agreement for joint occupancy of the project. This would also include R.C.M.P. facilities. The project is in the sketch plan stage. Construction is scheduled for the 1975/76 fiscal year provided work forces are available for its construction.

The Alberta Government Service Centre in Hythe, housing a new Treasury Branch and Liquor Store, is scheduled for completion this year. The land was assembled by the local council who made it available to the Province for the new building.

A full second-storey is being added to the existing Provincial Building in High Prairie to house the various occupants of the building.

The Alberta Government Service Centre in Fairview is one of the first projects whereby three levels of government (local, municipal and provincial) and the R.C.M.P. will be housed in a single facility. The building will also house the library and a conference area available to the community. Through close liaison of provincial, local and municipal governments, and the local school board, ideally located land was assembled to the benefit of the community.

A new Treasury Branch facility was constructed in Grande Prairie to replace the existing one located in the Provincial Building. The need for expansion necessitated relocating to a much larger site.

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Northern Development RESOURCE CENTRE
Rec'd.
Author
Main Class.
X-Ref. ALTA. GOVT. ↑
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Locational

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