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**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
1975**

**Alberta**

NORTHERN ALBERTA  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

EDMONTON, Alberta

To His Honour  
R.G. Steinhauer  
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

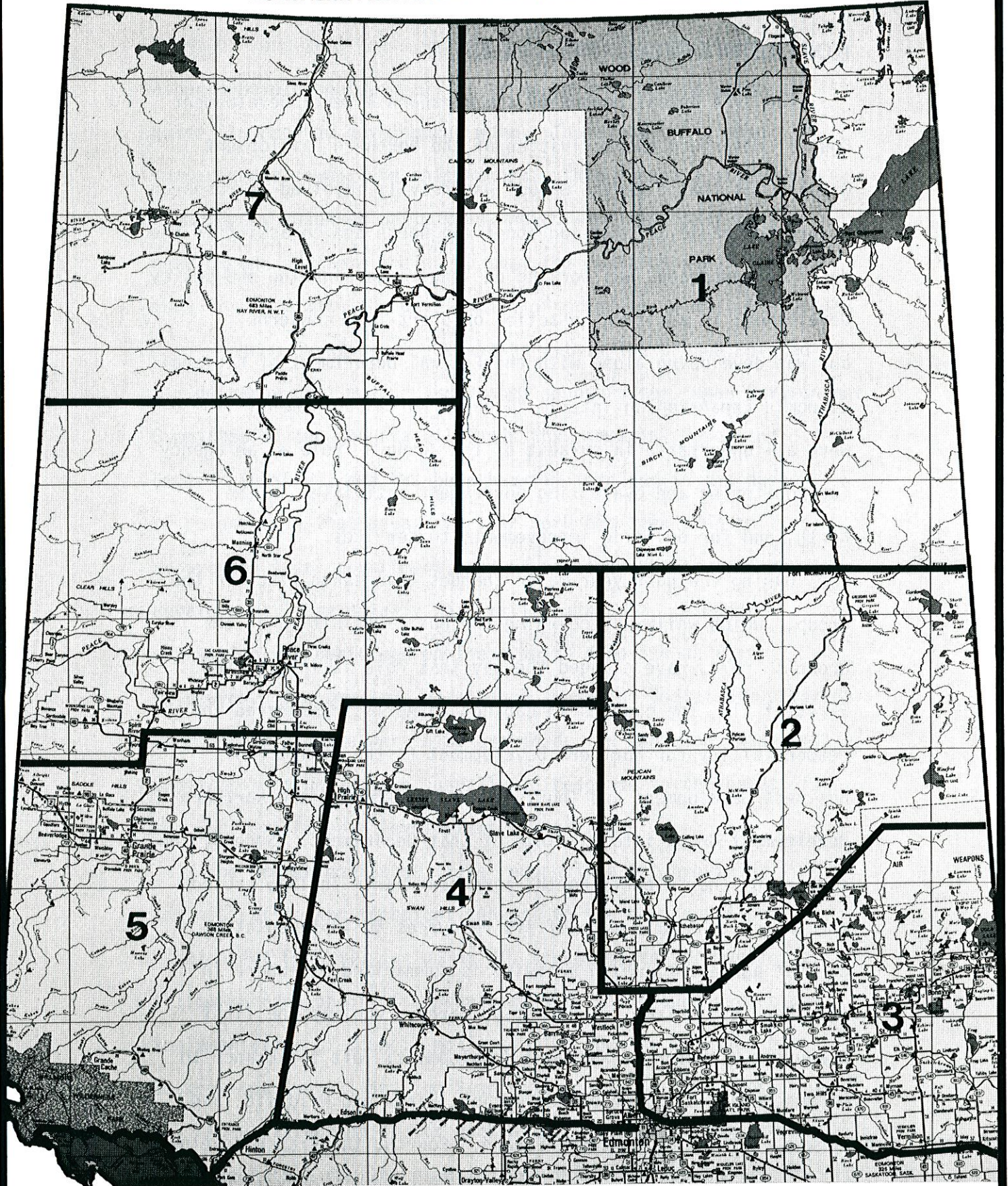
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dowling", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted" and above the printed name of the signatory.

The Honourable Robert W. Dowling  
Minister of Business Development  
and Tourism

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# NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AREAS



## **NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT BRANCH**

The 1974 Annual Report of the Northern Alberta Development Council described the activities of the Northern Development Group. At that time the Group was heavily involved in research to provide basic information about the North and to assist in the design of programs, was working on long-range planning and policy development in addition to action on short-term concerns, and was developing along with the Federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion an interim "Alberta North" agreement. These were all undertaken in pursuit of the Group's role as an agency for monitoring and evaluating Government activities in the North, and for devising improvements to services.

During the past year major changes have taken place in the Group, which while not changing the basic definition of the Group's role, have changed the way that role is interpreted. First of all, the changes in Cabinet in April transferred the responsibility for Northern Development to the Minister of Business Development and Tourism, and transformed the Northern Development Group into a Branch of that Department. Second, the signing of the "Alberta North" agreement early in 1975 caused the Branch to commit more of its resources to implementation of that agreement, which activity is summarized elsewhere in this Report. Third, Dr. Robert J. Carney, who was the first Executive Director of Northern Development, left the Branch to become Deputy Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife, and he was replaced by M. Elden Schorn. Fourth, the Branch developed

a set of long-term goals, which were adopted by the Northern Alberta Development Council to serve as a framework which will guide its program development work. These goals are also summarized elsewhere in this Report. This caused a shift away from purely research activities, which were necessary to the development of these goals, so that the research staff are now more involved with the development of programs to meet the goals.

Program development activities within the Branch covered a wide range of issues. The Branch sponsors the Human Environment Committee of the Alberta Oil Sands Environmental Research Program (AOSERP), and has been heavily involved in the design of research in that area. Further work has been done on land tenure and local government, and on various aspects of economic development, particularly for small businesses. A major evaluation was performed on the granite deposits at Fort Chipewyan. The problems of alcohol abuse and indictable offences in Northern Alberta were also examined. In addition, many smaller projects were undertaken, usually in response to the needs of the Northern Alberta Development Council.

The Branch continues to be responsible for providing administrative and technical support to the Northern Alberta Development Council, including all arrangements for meetings, follow-through on briefs, preparation of background papers and implementation of Council motions. The working relationship between the Council and the Branch is continuous and close.

As an extension of its work with the Council, the Branch was responsible for the planning and organizing of the Opportunity

North Conference held in Peace River in November. This event is described on page 32 of this Report.

## **DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**

The Northern Development Branch's terms of reference cover the whole range of needs of the people of Northern Alberta. These needs, as expressed through Northern Alberta Development Council briefs and other sources of information, are many and varied, but all across the North, economic development is a need, or has created other needs. Thus it was felt that northern people would benefit from a close relationship between Northern Development and the department which carries a major responsibility for economic development - the Department of Business Development and Tourism.

The Department is involved in advancing the broad Governmental goals of diversification of the industrial base, and development of Alberta's rural areas. Since all of Northern Alberta is classified as a rural area, Northern Development has an obvious close tie-in with that part of the Department's activities.

The purpose in merging the two organizations is to improve the quality of service to northern Albertans. This cuts two ways. Northern Development's effectiveness is increased by use of the expertise available within the Department. The Department's perspective is broadened and its planning improved by the close contact with the personnel of the Branch, and especially with the Council and its information sources in the North.

The Northern Development Branch is always aware, not only of the need for economic development but also of its social consequences, its effects on northern people. It will be extremely valuable to the people of the North to have this awareness brought directly into the centre of the Government's economic development planning process.

## **NORTHERN GOALS**

The benefit to the Northern Alberta Development Council and the Northern Development Branch in having an explicit set of goals lies in having a framework around which to organize their activities and to measure their performance. The goals are organized to deal with a number of general conditions that are found in Northern Alberta which can be roughly classified as "opportunities" and "problems."

The opportunities of the area are in general associated with natural resources. There is no doubt about the resource potential of the area, and its ability to contribute to the economy of the Province and the welfare of its inhabitants. The problems can be summarized under four headings.

First, virtually all Northern Alberta is a frontier area and has the problems traditional to such areas -- small population, isolation, high costs, distance from vital personal services and a heavy dependence on a government based outside the region. Second, several substantial areas are economically depressed, and the people there often suffer from poor housing, poor public utilities, lack of



economic opportunities, and social programs which are not designed to meet the local situation. Third, in the developing resource communities there is the whole range of problems associated with very rapid growth and a high turnover of population. Fourth, many areas of Northern Alberta are economically dependent on production of a narrow range of commodities, which exposes them to a high risk of fluctuation in employment and income.

The first set of goals directed towards dealing with these conditions cover economic development, including development of major natural resources, the expansion and diversification of agriculture, as well as diversification of other sectors of the northern economy; for example, tourism, forestry and mining. Wherever possible, industries must be located in the areas where people live and need employment. The Native people of Northern Alberta have special problems and require special developmental efforts and sensitive understanding if they are to become as prosperous as the non-Native part of society. Because of the Treaties, this is an area where the Federal and Provincial Governments and the people themselves must work together.

The second set concerns the development of communities. Strong local government is the best way to overcome the difficulty that isolated northern people have in dealing with governments that are far away. It also offers the best solution to the lack of co-ordination that exists in the delivery of government services at the local level. Innovations in local government development will be required to meet circumstances in two types of unorganized

areas -- those communities, some of which are of substantial size, but which have low tax bases, and those rural areas which are too sparsely settled to be fully organized.

The third set concerns education. One of the purposes of the education system is to prepare people for participation in society and for making a living. If northern people are to benefit from economic development and participate in local government, improvements must be made in the curriculum and methods of government for schools of all levels. In the area of curriculum, a more explicitly northern focus is required, and the cultural diversity of the area must be taken into account. In the area of school government, more involvement by northern people is necessary. In addition, the resources put into northern educational institutions should be increased to allow for higher costs of operation in the North.

The fourth set concerns improvement in government services. The co-ordination problem has already been mentioned. Increases in the level of service and improvements in the design of some programs will be required. Areas which are particularly in need of improvement are health care and the prevention of physical and mental health problems, housing, water and sewer facilities, recreation facilities and programs, and transportation and communication.

There is no prospect that these goals will all be achieved immediately. They are goals, things to be worked towards, ends to be achieved gradually as funds become available and new methods

of servicing are developed. The framework they provide is not a rigid one, but will be re-shaped and re-defined as circumstances unfold, as experience is gained and as new information comes in.

## NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Northern Alberta Development Council held nine meetings in 1975, and received briefs from many communities and organizations covering a broad range of topics. The Council worked to achieve action on the topics of concern, and spent considerable effort to move from the specifics of the briefs to general policy recommendations to help alleviate the concerns which reoccur in briefs.

In all, seventy-two briefs were submitted to the Council and action was taken on each. The briefs were passed to the appropriate line departments of the Provincial Government for information and departmental position. This position was then considered by the Northern Alberta Development Council, and a decision was made whether or not the departmental position and/or action was appropriate. At this point the Council directed the Northern Development Branch to work with the responsible department to achieve the necessary action. The originator of the brief was informed of the departmental position and of Council's direction.

The briefs which were presented to the Northern Alberta Development Council were as follows:

January 19, 1975 - Manning, Alberta

Brief 81 submitted by E. Dextrase, District 28 Unifarm

A proposal to establish a veterinarian clinic  
in Improvement District 23.

Brief 82 submitted by J. Howis, Manning Chamber of Commerce

Alternative viewing of television for the area.

Brief 83 submitted by N. Lorencz, I.D. 22 Boundaries Committee

A proposal for the change of I.D. 22 boundary lines. (Also submitted to the Municipal and School Boundaries Advisory Committee)

Brief 84 submitted by J. Mohr, Manning Fish & Game Association

Proposal for establishment of a Provincial Park at Notikewin River.

Brief 85 submitted by P. Brolley, Town of Manning

- (a) Dental care for Manning area
- (b) Extended care facilities for Municipal Hospital
- (c) Establish preventive social services for area.

Brief 86 submitted by L. Chorney, Town of Fairview

Proposal for paving the streets of Fairview

Brief 87 submitted by N. Lorencz, Town of Manning

Malt barley freight rates.

Brief 88 submitted by Mrs. G. Braw, Manning

Request for land for the Battle River Prairie Multicultural Society

Brief 89 submitted by Mrs. M. Hansen, Manning

Application for grant for senior citizens' building

Brief 90 submitted by Mayor D. Harbourne, Manning

Financial structure of the recreation needs of the area.

Brief 91 submitted by G. Murrant, Town of Manning

Upgrading of Lands & Forests airstrip.

Brief 92 submitted by P. Heck, Hawk Hills

Re-assistance for natural gas installations for grain drying.

Brief 93 submitted by Mayor D. Harbourne, Manning  
Teacher turn-over in the North, specifically  
the Peace River School Division.

Brief 94 submitted by K. Liuiken, Hawk Hills  
Proposal for a drainage ditch and request  
for financial assistance.

Brief 95 submitted by J. Affolter, Town of Manning  
Regarding water and sewer installations  
for the Town of Manning.

Brief 96 submitted by P.J. Gorman, Peace River  
Request for increased local purchasing by  
Government Departments.

Brief 97 submitted by Mrs. M. J. Hitz, Dixonville  
Request for construction of road east from  
Dixonville to the railroad and on to  
Deadwood.

Brief 98 submitted by Mrs. M. J. Hitz, Dixonville  
Request for water and sewer installations  
for Dixonville.

Brief 99 submitted by D. Sivertson, Carcajou  
Request for power installations for Carcajou.

Brief 100 submitted by Prof. E. Moore, Calgary  
Financial support for on-campus support services.

February 16, 1975 - Grande Cache, Alberta

Brief 101 submitted by A. Didow, Chamber of Commerce  
Improvements to roads and tourism potential.

Brief 102 submitted by B. Leonard, Grande Cache

Assistance in obtaining a grazing lease  
in the area.

Brief 103 submitted by A. Joachim, Grande Cache

Resume of activities for the Native Area Development  
Committee - submitted for information purposes only.

Brief 104 submitted by P. Thomas, Grande Cache

Proposal for Little Teepee All-seasons camp.

Brief 105 submitted by C. Swann, Manning

Request to have Provincial Government take  
responsibility for dog control in northern  
communities.

Brief 106 submitted by A. Sprecher, Grande Cache

Improvements to highway 40 and tourism  
potential.

Brief 107 submitted by C. R. MacKay, Lloydminster

Pacific Western Trucking Division expansion  
into Lloydminster.

Brief 108 submitted by Mrs. D. Troescher, Swan Hills

Request for improvements to Secondary Highway  
932 from Swan Hills to Kinuso.

April 20, 1975 - Valleyview, Alberta

Brief 109 submitted by T. Vanderkley, Eureka River

Improvement of Fairview-Fort St. John Highway  
(Secondary Highway 964).

Brief 110 submitted by G.W. Hannah, Cleardale

Request for changes in policy regarding advertising  
of government tenders in local media.

Brief 111 submitted by G.W. Hannah, Cleardale

Request for alternate representation on the  
Northern Alberta Development Council.

Brief 112 submitted by I. Wight, Grande Prairie

Peace River Regional Planning Commission ecological  
study of Sturgeon Lake area.

Brief 113 submitted by A. Gousley, Sturgeon Lake

Concerns of the Métis Association Local  
in Sturgeon Lake.

Brief 114 submitted by N. Adolphson, Valleyview

Request for an "off" railway grain elevator  
in Valleyview area.

Brief 115 submitted by D. Sullivan, Fort Vermilion

Request for banking facilities

Brief 116 submitted by W. Pope, Valleyview

Request for Street Improvements

Brief 117 (Information item from earlier meeting)

Mobile radio communications in High Prairie  
area.

May 25, 1975 - Athabasca, Alberta

Brief 118 submitted by Mr. Gerlach, County of Athabasca

Request for road improvements.

Brief 119 submitted by Mr. Gerlach, County of Athabasca

Request for housing improvements

Brief 120 submitted by Mr. Falconer, Baptiste Lake

Request for construction of a secondary ring  
road around Baptiste Lake.



Brief 121 submitted by Dr. J. Brown, Baptiste Lake

Request for development at Baptiste Lake.

Brief 122 submitted by Mayor Sturges, Athabasca

Road improvements; water and sewer facilities;  
rail and bus line abandonment.

Brief 123 submitted by A. Herschberger, Calling Lake

General concerns of Calling Lake community.

Brief 124 submitted by M. Steinhauer, St. Paul

Request for funding to allow non-Treaty students  
to attend para-professional courses at Blue Quills  
Native Education Council.

Brief 125 submitted by Rev. B.A. Rathbone, Athabasca

Development of health care centre and renovation  
of Athabasca Municipal Hospital.

Brief 126 submitted by E. Comchi, Athabasca

Concern re lack of auxiliary hospital beds  
(extended care facilities).

Brief 127 submitted by D. Hubert, Lac La Biche

Fishing and tourist industries for Lac La Biche  
area.

Brief 128 submitted by V. Lewis, Athabasca

Request for special education classes for children  
with learning disabilities.

Brief 129 submitted by R.M. Atkinson, Athabasca

Concern regarding housing shortage in Athabasca.

Brief 130 submitted by R.W. MacGregor, Athabasca

Request for financial assistance to construct  
cubing plant in Athabasca.

June 24, 1975 - Spirit River, Alberta

Brief 131 submitted by H. Cunningham, Fairview

Improvements to Fairview airstrip.

Brief 132 submitted by F. Lambright, Tangent

Improved transportation service between Tangent and Peace River-Grimshaw.

Brief 133 submitted by H. Turner, Worsley

Request for financial assistance to ensure the maintenance of Grades 11 and 12 in Worsley.

Brief 134 submitted by Joanne Savard, Jean Côté

Request for improvements to water facilities in community.

Brief 135 submitted by W.M. Peterson, Dunvegan

Request for establishment of Stony and Motto Lake campsites.

September 24, 1975 - Wabasca-Desmarais, Alberta

Brief 136 submitted by A. Herschberger, Calling Lake

General community concerns.

Brief 137 submitted by Father Jean, Wabasca

General community concerns.

Brief 138 submitted by L.Houle, Wabasca

Improvements to community water facilities

Brief 139 submitted by M. Wolitski, Wabasca

Recreational needs of Wabasca-Desmarais

Brief 140 submitted by W. Beaver, Slave Lake

Support for the Alberta Native Communications Society Communications Satellite Project.

Brief 141 submitted by Thelma Bellerose, Slave Lake

Request for assistance to carry out a social  
aide program

Brief 142 submitted by W. Beaver, Slave Lake

General concerns of the Isolated Communities  
Advisory Board.

Brief 143 submitted by W. Beaver, Slave Lake

Proposal for local government development research  
in the isolated communities - request for funding.

Brief 144 submitted by G. Auger, Wabasca

Request for settlement of land tenure concerns

Brief 145 submitted by D. Hubert, Lac La Biche

Need for dental services in the Lac La Biche area

Brief 146 submitted by George Auger, Wabasca

A copy of "Wabasca Desmarais: A Community Assessment"  
was submitted for Council's information only.

Brief 147 submitted by H. Pepper, Wabasca

Intercultural education - verbal brief with  
no written followup received from originator.

Brief 148 submitted by L. Houle, Wabasca

Concerns of Métis Association Local 161

Brief 149 submitted by L. Wiltzen, Anzac

Request for assistance to change hiring practices  
in Fort McMurray and area.

Brief 150 submitted by Mayor W. C. Thomas, Slave Lake

Television coverage of Slave Lake area

Brief 151 submitted by L. J. Lamoureux, McLennan

Improvements to McLennan Municipal Airstrip.

Brief 152 submitted by Mrs. A. Sequin, Slave Lake

Concerns relating to Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park.

Brief 153 submitted by W. Beaver, Slave Lake

Improvements to roads in Chipewyan Lake community

Brief 154 submitted by Thelma Bellerose, Slave Lake

Request for Tee-Pee Information Centre (Travel Alberta) to be run by Native Friendship Centre.

The government response to the briefs varies greatly from brief to brief. Certain concerns have been alleviated totally; others partially; others not at all.

The detail of the present state in relation to any brief is available by contacting the office of the Northern Development Branch, Department of Business Development and Tourism.

Accomplishments which the work of the Northern Alberta Development Council advanced include:

A. NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL STUDENT BURSARY PROGRAM:

The Northern Alberta Development Council Student Bursary Program offers needy students, who have been residents of the province of Alberta for at least three years, special bursary benefits. In return for this help the student will sign an agreement acknowledging that he will work in a remote area of the province for one year for each year of full bursary support. If the student withdraws from this

program he will be held responsible for repayment of the major part of the bursary.

The remote area of Alberta is interpreted as that part of the province which is under the jurisdiction of the Minister responsible for the Northern Development Branch.

The Bursary Program is administered by a committee comprised of four members of the Northern Alberta Development Council, one representative each from the Métis Association of Alberta, the Student Finance Board and the Department of Advanced Education. Determined by the needs of the student, the committee may grant a single student up to \$2,500 per academic year and married students up to \$4,000. Other than a tuition allowance, the bursary is paid on a monthly basis.

During 1975, 117 students received bursary assistance. Of these 38 were second year bursary recipients. Over 58 of the students from more than thirty northern centres are studying for their Bachelor of Education degrees. Bursaries were awarded to seven veterinary medicine students, seven student nurses and three students of medicine. One bursary was awarded to help a Peace River girl continue her musical studies at the University of Alberta. The balance of bursaries covered students in a variety of scholastic pursuits.

It should be stressed that upon completion of his studies, the student is responsible for locating his own employment. The committee will offer guidance wherever possible, but the ultimate responsibility lies with the student.

B. Alberta North Interim Subsidiary Agreement

The Northern Development Branch is pleased with the way the Alberta North Agreement has developed, and is confident that it will progress to be more meaningful to Northern Alberta. Ultimately the Interim Subsidiary Agreement will be negotiated into a Long-term Agreement, and steps toward that end are in their initial stages. Basically the Agreement is an enabling Agreement between the Province of Alberta and the Department of Regional Economic Expansion of the Federal Government. As such it allows for the development of elements under the Agreement within the responsible line departments of the Provincial Government. This method of delivery requires considerable co-ordination, but it is hoped the Agreement will become an effective tool which allows for the advancement of projects seen as a provincial priority.

The amount of the Agreement between 1974 and 1976 for all sectors totalled \$8,150,878. The major developments under the Agreement to date are under the Life Improvement and Community Services Sector and include such projects as:

- Opportunity Corps,
- Employment and Relocation Counselling,
- Northern Water Supply Program, and
- Northern Electrification Program.

The Opportunity Corps program, implemented by the Public Assistance Branch of Alberta Social Services and Community Health, operated in selected communities throughout Northern Alberta. Programs were specially designed with the intention of providing

services not presently available through Canada Manpower or other related government services. Employing disadvantaged people, the Opportunity Corps program sought to provide them with basic life and work skills and orientation counselling in order to encourage community betterment through self-identification of needs and self-help.

The Corps pursued their goals in three areas: the Lesser Slave Lake area, Janvier, and the Fort Vermilion/Fort Chipewyan areas. In the Lesser Slave Lake area the Corps was extremely active, moving from acquisition of industrial skills to actual experience in small-scale manufacturing. Work crews in Calling Lake were involved in construction of road bedbases for Alberta Social Services and Community Health, building outdoor recreational facilities, and initiating a successful snowshoe assembly business. In Slave Lake the Corps worked on construction of shelving, pallets, bedbases, and playground equipment, and other accomplishments included renovations of recreational structures and creation of sanitation facilities for Spruce Point Park. In the Wabasca-Desmarais region Opportunity Corps projects centred on construction of bedbases, playground equipment, and outdoor picnicking facilities. Men were also responsible for clearing the right-of-way for power lines to Sandy Lake, repairs to local community buildings, drainage improvement, and construction of fibreglass canoes for recreational programs. In Peerless Lake, Trout Lake, Little Buffalo and Cadotte Lake, supervised groups worked on road and drainage projects, fencing and construction of community buildings. Programs

in the High Prairie area included heavy equipment training, playground and community hall construction in Faust and Enilda, and renovations of recreational facilities. In each location in the Lesser Slave Lake area, work was paralleled by counselling in life skills and guidance in specialized trade skills workshops. The Lesser Slave Lake area program employed an average of 60 people in 1975-76.

In Janvier supervised work crews worked on road repairs, community wells and public building repairs, recreational improvements, home renovations for the aged and infirm, and training programs for acquiring logging and sawmill skills. The average number of participants in the Janvier program totalled twenty for 1975-76.

Approximately forty people participated in the Corps program in the Fort Vermilion/Fort Chipewyan areas. The projects involved renovations to health and recreational installations, trade skills training workshops and courses on work habits and attitudes, first-aid and safety procedures.

Employment and relocation counselling projects, under the implementation of Advanced Education and Manpower were another major development under the Alberta North Agreement in 1975-76. This program was functional in three centres with 64 housing units allocated in Slave Lake, 20 in Grande Prairie, and 17 in Fort McMurray. Housing allocation will increase in these areas in conjunction with CMHC and AHC at a manageable level and does not only relocate residents of isolated communities to towns with job opportunities, but also stresses relocation from shanty areas to new homes within the towns. In all phases of the



relocation, Cree-speaking counsellors were deemed vital to the overall success of the program, and their efforts alleviated many of the potential problems resulting from relocation to a new environment.

The project's initial implementation emphasized relocating older, larger families to the growth centres, but it soon became evident that adaptation to a new environment proved too difficult for these families which had already developed structured life styles. So that a strong basis for success may be established to encourage other families to take advantage of the program, the program now prefers applicants who are younger and possess relatively more education.

It is noted that this program is not approximated by any other in Canada, and possesses great potential benefits to enable Native people to enjoy the benefits and assume the responsibilities of modern society.

The Northern Water Supply Program was another principal development under the Agreement. Under the auspices of the Earth Sciences and Licensing Division of Alberta Environment, the water supply program drilled approximately 168 wells at an estimated cost today of \$307,000. Work completed was as follows:

<u>Areas Worked</u>	<u>Wells</u>	<u>Dry Holes</u>
Owl River	11	
Beaver Lake	5	1
Gunn-Alberta Beach	14	0
Marlboro		
Sturgeon Lake	15	1
New Fish Creek		1
Moose Mountain	3	2

<u>Areas Worked</u>	<u>Wells</u>	<u>Dry Holes</u>
Triangle	2	3
Sunset House	2	
Enilda	0	
Atikameg	6	
Beaver Crossing	2	
Grande Centre	4	
Grande Cache	12	1
Anzac	10	
Lodgepole	1	
Big Prairie	15	6
Kikino	39	13
East Prairie	2	2
Elizabeth	8	
Fishing Lake	14	1
Keg River	3	1

Wabasca-Desmarais: Around 110 pre-fabricated water cisterns were delivered to the community by Alberta Environment. Fifty of the cisterns contained manually-operated water pumps. However, after installation, it was found that a great number of the cisterns contained major manufacturing and design defects which needed repair or replacement. Repairs undertaken during all of July were considered unsuccessful after inspection in August, and a final solution regarding the cisterns is pending legal action taken against the manufacturer by Alberta Environment. Wabasca is now supplied with a water storage tank and will soon be provided with a 24-hour water outlet. The settlement of Desmarais has already been provided with a 24-hour outlet.

Anzac/Trout Lake: As a response to requests in Anzac and Trout Lake, inspections of water wells were made in both communities. Chemical analyses at first caused some concern about possible hydrocarbon contamination in Anzac, but the water was determined to be potable.

Analyses in Trout Lake revealed no contamination in the wells.

Surface Water Installations:

Gift Lake - purification plant complete

Fort MacKay - two water storage tanks & trucking system

Little Buffalo )  
Paddle Prairie } - construction of purification plants  
Calling Lake    }        in 1976

Cost: approximately \$100,000.

An additional major project under the Alberta North Agreement was the Northern Electrification Program. By means of a twenty kilometer (12 mile) transmission line, the Utilities division of Alberta Utilities and Telephones, utilizing Alberta Power, energized a sub-station for electricity distribution to Little Buffalo. A distribution system and house wiring were completed in that community and also in the settlements of Sandy Lake and Loon Lake.

There were activities in the other two sectors of the Alberta North Agreement in 1975-76. Under the Community Economic Development Sector (2) of the Agreement, programs provided consultants for research, monitoring developmental activities, developing new policy proposals, and devising improvements to the delivery of services in Northern Alberta.

The Indian Métis Liaison Group provided core funding to the Isolated Communities Advisory Board to assist them in their efforts toward self development. They also supported the Lesser Slave Lake Regional Council for researching the industrial potential of timber and hardwood resources. Other organizations receiving support from the Indian Métis Liaison Group were New Dawn Housing for facilitating the economic viability of their industrial operation; the people of the Lac La Biche area for social programs; the Native Area Development Committee in Grande Cache for more efficient delivery and implementation of government services to the community and for the initial development and implementation of their land tenure program.

The Northern Alberta Development Council was involved in supporting the efforts of northern residents when making adequate representation to Council during its meetings. The Council also provided assistance for sustaining initial activity in the assessment of granite quarries in the Fort Chipewyan area. The Northern Alberta Development Council assisted the Isolated Communities Advisory Board in a project of local government development in Loon Lake, Trout Lake, Peerless Lake, Chipewyan Lake, Cadotte Lake and Little Buffalo.

A program of major significance in the Agreement's Sector 3, Planning and Management, concerned education. The Research and Planning Branch of Alberta Education sponsored a research project into the quality of education offered by institutions in Northern Alberta. The study group established by the Government of

Alberta, the Alberta North Needs Assessment Task Force, has completed reports which define the terms of reference and operating principles of the Task Force, and which describe the nature of the educational problems in Northern Alberta and recommended courses of action. At present, the Task Force is contracting various studies to local researchers (Native where possible) to fulfill the goals planned for Phase II.

The following is a listing of Project Authorizations to date under the Alberta North Interim Agreement and the current status of each program:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>DREE Portion</u>	<u>Claimed To Date</u>
Opportunity Corps (Janvier)	251,464	125,732	53,539
Opportunity Corps (S.Lake)	798,160	399,080	146,807
Employment & Relocation	301,150	150,575	-----
Recreation & Perf.Arts	13,162	6,581	6,581
Leadership Development	18,543	9,271	9,271
Volunteer Services	86,826	43,413	43,413
New Futures Program	4,998	2,499	2,499
Community Participation	906	453	-----
Community Participation	10,806	5,403	-----
Leadership Development	24,700	12,350	-----
Water Supply Program	1,045,000	522,500	272,420
Electrification	465,000	232,500	175,000
Research & Planning	48,312	24,156	24,156
Research & Planning	23,100	11,550	11,550
Native Eco. Development	177,000	88,500	88,500
Research & Planning	2,250	1,125	-----
Sturgeon Lake Development	72,000	36,000	-----
Heavy Equipment Operators	85,000	42,500	42,500
Planning & Development	8,500	4,250	3,002
Planning & Development	30,000	15,000	15,000
	-----	-----	-----
	\$3,466,877	\$1,733,438	\$995,238

C. Northern Transportation:

An area of considerable interest to Northern Alberta is transportation planning, and the Northern Alberta Development Council has worked closely with Alberta Transportation in this regard. As a result of co-operative efforts with Alberta Transportation, the Council has made recommendations both in specific areas and also on broader policy matters.

Major transportation projects undertaken by Alberta Transportation in Northern Alberta during 1975 included airports and roads. In Janvier and Cadotte Lake, old turf airstrips were extended to 4,000 feet and additionally upgraded with gravel surfacing. In the High Level area the existing airport at Footner Lake was paved, and Pacific Western Airlines now provides regularly scheduled jet passenger service to the area. A preliminary engineering study for air facilities was completed for Sandy Lake, and a similar study is scheduled for Fox Lake in the coming year.

Alberta Transportation's road activities were centred in the Fort McMurray area, where grading and base course and pavement work totalling approximately 25 miles was done to Highway 63; in the Highway 58 and 58A area between High Level, Fort Vermilion and Beaver Ranch Creek, where three miles of highway received grading improvements; and in Highway 35, the MacKenzie Highway, where 25 miles between the Métis settlement, Paddle Prairie, Melito Creek and High Level were paved and an additional three miles were improved with gravel base course.

## OPPORTUNITY NORTH CONFERENCE

Some 300 delegates and 60 speakers from government and the private sector converged on Peace River at the end of November for a ground-breaking conference sponsored by the Northern Alberta Development Council.

The conference was planned in the conviction that for development of the North to be desirable, it must first of all benefit the people most directly concerned - northerners themselves. It was devised, not as another resource-oriented meeting of urban decision-makers, but primarily as a forum for northerners and for debate of the development issues that most affect northerners, by northerners.

To achieve this, participation by northerners was maximized: three-fourths of the delegates came from north of Highway 16 and northern people were involved as speakers, chairpersons and discussants. A northern committee worked at every stage of planning and organizing the conference.

The conference was opened by the Honorable Peter Lougheed, Premier, who outlined Alberta's commitment to balanced growth and diversification by upgrading resources in the province, ensuring full participation of people and firms already here together with a welcome to newcomers, moving into corporate taxation in order to encourage small business while striving to maintain the lowest overall tax burden of any Canadian province, and co-operation with business in marketing, financing and research.

The Premier called on northerners themselves to determine the pace of development they want. He asked northerners to set their own priorities for services, work toward closer co-operation with the Northwest Territories, assure that native Albertans participate fully in development while still retaining their own culture, and define the appropriate role of government in the North.

Conference sessions probed the various questions associated with development and processing of both renewable and non-renewable resources. In the non-renewable area, there were sessions on the energy sector as a whole and on the oil sands as well as on such conventional fuels as electricity, natural gas, and coal. The prospects for a variety of northern minerals were discussed. The renewable resource topics included agriculture processing and various aspects of recreation and tourism. Additionally, there were major sessions on education, social service delivery and other human issues needing resolution before development can proceed in a balanced way.

Among the speakers and discussants were Commissioner Stuart Hodgson of the Northwest Territories, several Alberta Cabinet ministers, officials from the municipal, provincial and federal governments, senior executives from primary and secondary industry, leaders in the field of social service delivery and representatives of numerous organizations, including a number of Native groups.

A film of the conference is available from Access Alberta's Media Resource Centre, 6005 103 Street, Edmonton (telephone Wayne Blair, 434-9441). A printed conference report is available from the Northern Development Branch of the Department of Business Development and Tourism.