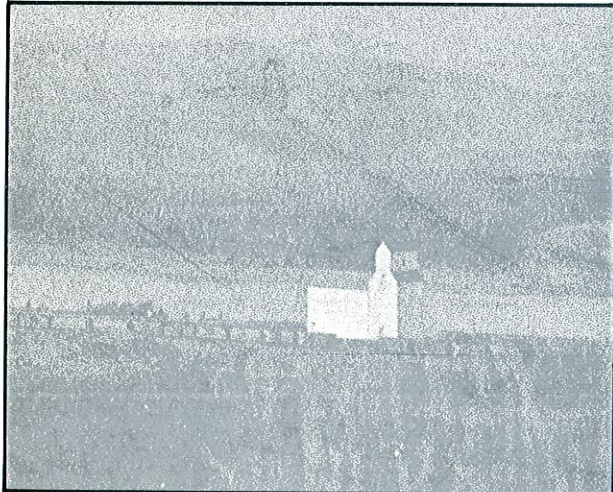
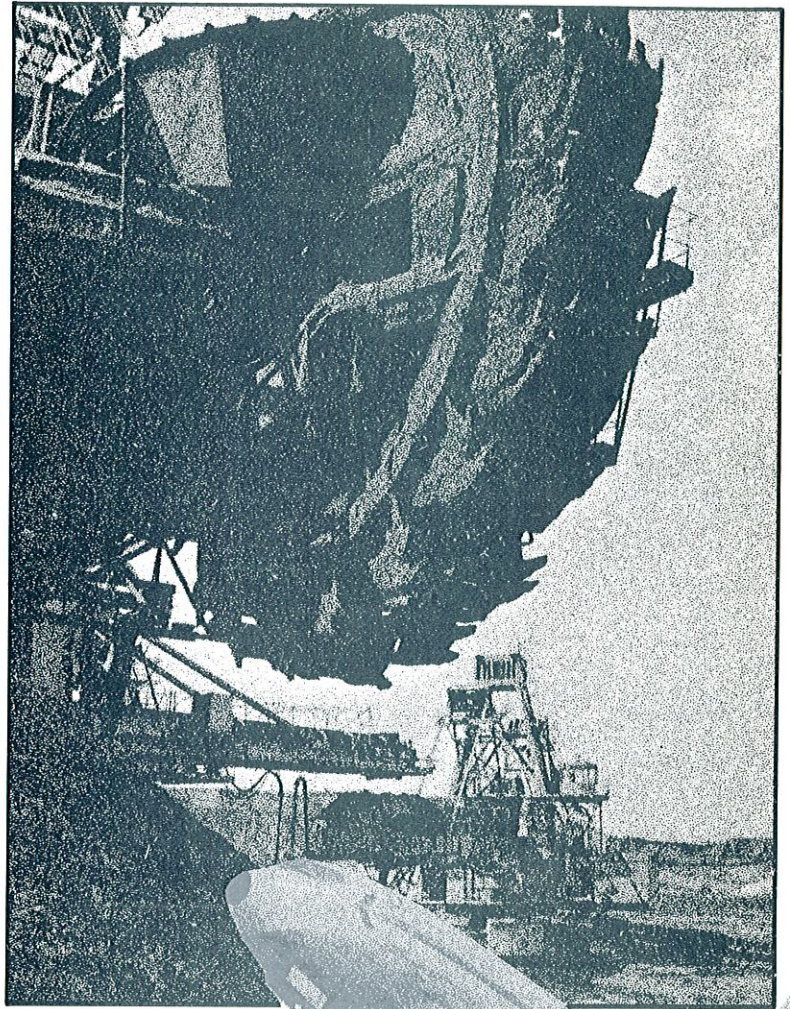


A1.1



ANNUAL REPORT 1988/89



Alberta
NORTHERN ALBERTA
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

LETTERS
OF
TRANSMITTAL



TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES

Office of the Minister

208 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 403/427-2080

August, 1989

To Her Honour
Helen Hunley
Lieutenant-Governor of the
Province of Alberta

Madam:

The undersigned has the honour to transmit herewith, the twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Northern Alberta Development Council.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Al 'Boomer' Adair".

Hon. Al "Boomer" Adair
Minister Responsible for the
Northern Alberta Development Council



NORTHERN ALBERTA
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

2nd Floor, Provincial Building, 9621 - 96 Avenue, Postal Bag 900-14, Peace River, Alberta, Canada T8S 1T4 403/624-6274 Fax 403/624-6184

August, 1989

Hon. Al "Boomer" Adair
Minister Responsible for the
Northern Alberta Development Council

Sir:

The undersigned has the honour to transmit herewith, the twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Northern Alberta Development Council.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Elliott".

Bob Elliott, MLA
Grande Prairie
Chairman

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Statement	13
Northern Alberta Development Council	17
Members	17
Area of Jurisdiction	18
General Objectives	19
Northern Alberta Development Council Activities	21
Public Meetings	23
Briefs	23
Research and Coordination	24
Northern Infrastructure Seminar	26
Family Violence	27
Fort Chipewyan Bicentennial	31
Fort Vermilion Bicentennial	31
Meeting with Saskatchewan Officials	32
Whitecourt Growth Impact Study	32
Youth Entrepreneurs	34
Future Health Care	35
Student Bursary Program	38
Medical Elective Project	39
New Council Appointments	40
Northern Development Branch	43

**STATEMENT
OF THE
CHAIRMAN**

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

The 25th anniversary of the Northern Alberta Development Council occurred in 1988. Formed in the autumn of 1963, and reorganized into its present form in 1973, the Council has always worked very hard to increase public participation in the planning, design and delivery of government services in northern Alberta. This is achieved through public forums or meetings, held in various northern communities where private citizens, municipal governments, community organizations and agencies, and so on, are encouraged to present briefs on matters of concern.

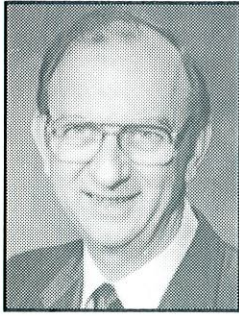
It was fitting, therefore, that two of the Council's six public meetings in the past fiscal year were held in Fort Vermilion and in Fort Chipewyan — communities which also celebrated anniversaries in 1988. The Council was pleased to present both communities with commemorative gifts to mark their 200th year of existence.

Among its other activities in 1988/89, the Northern Alberta Development Council produced a detailed position paper on family violence in northern Alberta. In June, a mini-workshop was held on health care in northern Alberta and resulted in a report and recommendations which were presented in September to the Premier's Commission on Future Health Care for Albertans. Then, in November, a seminar to examine infrastructure services and needs was mounted in Slave Lake. About 200 delegates participated in this seminar.

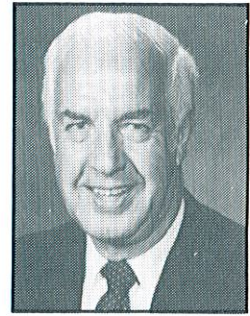
Ongoing Council activities involving public meetings, research, coordination and consultation, the Student Bursary Program and special initiatives in a wide variety of areas, saw the conclusion of another busy year working on behalf of the citizens of northern Alberta.

**NORTHERN ALBERTA
DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL**

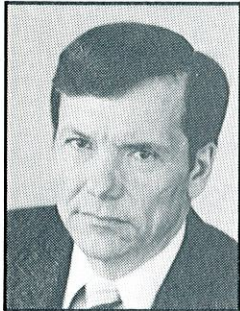
NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL 1988/89



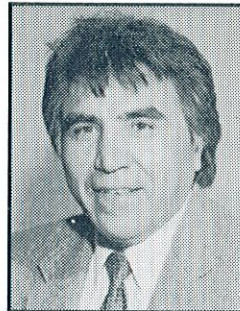
BOB ELLIOTT, MLA
CHAIRMAN
BEAVERLODGE



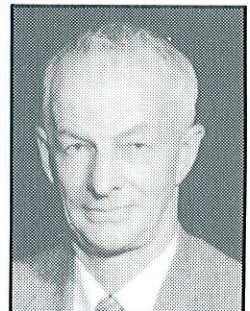
HON. AL "BOOMER" ADAIR
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR
NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT
PEACE RIVER



Fred Gingerich
Vice-Chairman
Athabasca



Mike Beaver
Desmarais



John Drobot, MLA
St. Paul



Marcel Ducharme
Bonnyville



Elaine Gauthier
Plamondon



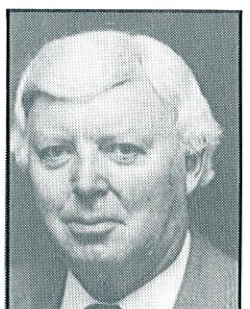
Kim Ghostkeeper
Paddle Prairie



Bernie Hornby
Fox Creek



Donald Keith
Fort McMurray



Jim Reynolds
Fairview

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The Northern Alberta Development Council was initially created in 1963 as a five-member advisory body to the provincial government. It was enlarged in 1973 to a membership of 10 and currently consists of eight private citizens appointed on the basis of public nominations, and two elected Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Through its own Act, the Northern Alberta Development Council is charged with the responsibility to "investigate, monitor, plan and promote practical measures to foster and advance general development in northern Alberta, and to advise the government thereon." The Act makes specific reference to social and economic development, the development of communities and service delivery, and the development of government services and programs.

The Council, at present, has a full-time MLA Chairman and reports to the Executive Council through the Minister responsible for Northern Development.

The Council's primary role is to provide government with a northern point of view on a wide range of issues, supplementing and complementing the perspectives of northern MLAs. A major objective of Council since 1973 has been to increase public participation in the planning and design of delivery systems for various government services in northern Alberta.

The general purposes that Council wishes to promote are:

- to enhance social and economic opportunities within northern Alberta in order to encourage young people to stay;
- to enhance the viability of traditional northern small town and rural life;
- to support the desires and aspirations of all residents in northern Alberta for a fair share in the wealth and potential of the area;
- to support the desires of various cultural and ethnic groups within northern Alberta for maintenance of their distinctive heritage.

Through regularly scheduled public meetings and sponsorship of major conferences and seminars, the Council serves as a forum to which residents can express their ideas and concerns regarding development of the north. In addition to receiving briefs at public meetings, the Council can initiate research into particular opportunities or needs, and

often pursues, on behalf of northern residents, efforts toward the development of new programs or coordination of the existing service delivery.

The information service provided through the response to briefs received from the public results in the initiation of most Council activities. Nearly 60 per cent of the briefs presented to the Northern Alberta Development Council since 1973 have resulted in positive responses.

Issues considered by the Northern Alberta Development Council during the year under review were many, including industry development, small business development, forestry, tourism, infrastructure systems, health services, family violence, youth entrepreneurs, northern transportation services, services to the handicapped, employment and training, integrated resource management, adult literacy and local government concerns.

In June, Council met with Saskatchewan's Minister of Northern Affairs in Fort Vermilion prior to the public meeting. Then, in August, the Council's public meeting was scheduled for Fort Chipewyan to coincide with the opening of the pilot project regarding Fort Chipewyan Granite.

On November 2, 3 and 4, 1988, the Council sponsored a Seminar on Infrastructure in Northern Alberta. Two hundred community, industry and government representatives met in Slave Lake to review this important topic and to listen to, and meet with, experts in all facets of infrastructure delivery.

The Northern Alberta Development Council serves as a facilitator and catalyst, assisting the line departments of government responsible for the implementation of changes and service improvements. The Council's public participation role over the years has provided an enhanced two-way flow of information, resulting in marked improvements for all northern Albertans.

**NORTHERN ALBERTA
DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL
ACTIVITIES**

PUBLIC MEETINGS

During 1988/89 the NADC held six public meetings, at Grimshaw in April, Fort Vermilion in June, Fort Chipewyan in August, Worsley in October, Lac La Biche in December and Fishing Lake in February. Two other regular monthly meetings were held in Peace River as well as a seminar and a number of special activities.

One hundred and forty-five briefs were received from groups and individuals in attendance at the public meetings. Each brief submitted was reviewed by the Council to determine a course of action and forwarded to various departments and agencies of government for consideration and comment. The departmental responses were then discussed by the Council, and a decision made as to whether or not the department's position and proposed action were appropriate. If the departmental response was felt to be inappropriate, the Council directed the Northern Development Branch to further clarify the issue through Branch-directed research, or to undertake discussions with the responsible officials in order to achieve the necessary action. At times, coordination of the efforts of a number of departments of government was required. Brief originators were advised of the progress made on each of the ideas or concerns expressed in their submissions.

The results achieved by the Council varied greatly from brief to brief. In several instances the concerns raised were either totally or partially resolved. In some cases, the Council and Branch are continuing to work toward a practical solution which is acceptable to all involved. The current status of any of the briefs submitted to Council is available from the Northern Development Branch in Peace River.

BRIEFS

During the year, 16 briefs were received from Fort Chipewyan and Fort McMurray in the northeast region; 13 from Desmarais, Grouard, Jousard, Marie Reine, Nampa, Slave Lake, and Whitecourt in the central region; 40 from Athabasca, Bonnyville, Boyle, Cold Lake, Elk Point, Frog Lake, Grand Centre, Lac La Biche, Spedden, and Fishing Lake in the southeast region; 57 from Eureka River, Fairview, Fort Vermilion, Grimshaw, High Level, Hines Creek, Hotchkiss, La Crete, Manning, Peace River, and Worsley in the northwest region; 13 from Beaverlodge, Falher, Fox Creek, Grande Prairie, and Spirit River in the southwest region; and six from Edmonton and other points outside the Northern Alberta Development Council boundary.

RESEARCH AND COORDINATION

Many of the issues brought to the attention of the Northern Alberta Development Council required intensive background work and follow-up activities. As a result, the Council initiated a number of research projects and efforts directed at coordination or modification of the delivery of government services in various areas.

Major Council activities in 1988/89 included:

- a review and discussion meeting on various policy issues with the Minister responsible for Northern Development
- a meeting with members of the Premier's Commission on Future Health Care for Albertans
- an information exchange meeting with the Saskatchewan government's Minister of Northern Affairs
- support and follow-up for briefs related to transportation and infrastructure development
- completion of a handbook describing how to conduct community surveys
- completion of Northern Adult Literacy background research
- completion of the examination of opportunities for youth entrepreneurs in northern Alberta and follow-up workshop
- continued sponsorship of the Student Bursary Program
- support for a manpower recruitment component to enhance the Student Bursary Program
- completion of a northeastern Alberta adult education survey in conjunction with Lakeland College and Alberta Vocational Centre, Lac La Biche
- continued support for and participation in the Health Care Connection for the recruitment of health care personnel to northern Alberta
- initiation of a health care professional recruitment booklet

- initiation of work on an Early School Leavers video
- support to establish more teaching practicums in the north
- continued coordination activities related to the Peace Arch Project
- assistance with the review of delivery of a literacy program by Fairview College
- ongoing work on the Northern Supplementary Fund Committee
- participation in a steering committee assessing commercial recreation opportunities in northern Alberta
- continued involvement on the Fort McKay Interface Project
- technical advice regarding the Whitecourt Forestry Seminar
- assistance with briefs related to cultural and historic sites in northern Alberta
- support for community research projects in Peace River, Slave Lake and Whitecourt with regard to forestry developments
- support for community research projects in Elk Point and Beaverlodge
- support for a community research project in Bonnyville
- support for the recommendations of the U of A Senate Task Force Report on the University and the North
- initiation of research geared toward updating the publications, Inventory of Infrastructure and Community Profiles
- support for six satellite shelters in northern Alberta and a shelter in Peace River for victims of family violence
- continued support for the Peace Arch local benefits project
- support for briefs presented regarding medical professionals
- production of the second volume of *Alberta North* magazine for children
- inclusion of physical therapy students in the medical electives element of the NADC bursary.

NORTHERN INFRASTRUCTURE SEMINAR

Over the years, in its role as an advisory body to government through the Minister responsible for Northern Development, the Northern Alberta Development Council received many representations from the northern public concerning the development of roads, utilities, and other infrastructure services in the north. Almost 30% of the issues presented to Council in the last 14 years concerned infrastructure.

Development in northern Alberta is directly linked to the development of infrastructure. This fact, coupled with the interest shown by the public, culminated in the organization of the Northern Infrastructure Seminar held in Slave Lake on November 2, 3 and 4, 1988. Two hundred delegates took part.

On day-one of the Seminar, Doug Webster, professor of Environmental Design, the University of Calgary, addressed the audience. He outlined the general trends and conditions faced by northern Alberta. He said the challenge for northerners is the creation of a society with a high quality-of-life and with infrastructure that is adequate for stable growth but that is also environmentally sound.

Day-two began with two panel presentations. One panel featured experts from the energy, agriculture and forestry sectors. These were John Vandermeer, Unocal Limited of Calgary; Marv Anderson, a farmer/consultant from St. Paul; Bill Phillips of the Department of Rural Economy at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

The second panel was composed of representatives from the tourism, retail/service and community sectors. The panelists were: Randy Conrad of Conrad and Associates, Edmonton; Frank Lovsin, Lovsin Markets Ltd., Peace River; Chuck Knight, Mayor of Fort McMurray and Ben Novak, of the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists (APEGGA).

Panelists discussed the relationship between infrastructure and economic development, particularly as it affects the various economic sectors.

The luncheon speaker on day-two was Hon. Al "Boomer" Adair, Minister of Transportation and Utilities and Minister responsible for Northern Development. Mr. Adair addressed the topic of infrastructure on behalf of the Government of Alberta. He outlined what has already been accomplished in supplying the north with services and spoke briefly about plans for future infrastructure development in northern Alberta.

The afternoon of day-two was devoted to workshop sessions. Delegates were

distributed among six separate workshops and had the opportunity to participate in two of these since the workshops were repeated once. Workshop topics were: Community and On-Farm Water and Sewer Programs; Telephones, Rural Electric Associations (REAs) and Gas Co-ops; Regional Utility Services; Roads to Resources; Impact of Regulatory Reform on the Transportation Industry; Alternate Forms of Transportation.

In the evening of that day, the keynote dinner speaker, Allan Theriault, representing Stewart, Weir & Co., looked into the future and spoke to delegates about "Road Development to the Year 2000." Mr. Theriault's firm produced an assessment of northern Alberta transportation systems. He talked about the north's needs and realistic expectations, and suggested the state of infrastructure development over the next decade.

Day-three featured two Open Forums — one devoted to examination and discussion of Northwest Road Networks, the other to Northeast Road Networks.

The Open Forums were followed by an address presented by Hon. Larry Shaben, Minister of Economic Development and Trade. The topic was "Infrastructure and the Northern Economy." A key point made by Mr. Shaben was that Albertans must be conscious of how the province's economic strength is linked to its capacity to move goods and services from Alberta.

The Conference's final offering was a "Bear Pit" session where Hon. Mr. Adair and Hon. Mr. Shaben fielded questions by Seminar delegates on any and all facets of infrastructure.

Bob Elliott, Chairman of the Northern Alberta Development Council summed up the Seminar proceedings and reminded delegates that the experts they had met at the Seminar had done their best to deal with all areas of infrastructure in the north.

A report of the proceedings of the Northern Infrastructure Seminar is available from the Northern Development Branch in Peace River.

FAMILY VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

The Northern Alberta Development Council has received a number of briefs over the years related to family violence issues, including presentations from crisis line associations, shelters and satellite shelters, and volunteer community organizations. In November of 1986, the Council met with Hon. Connie Osterman, then minister of Social Services, to discuss family violence concerns. The Minister outlined current government policy and indicated she would welcome the Council's further advice. In an effort to

respond to the Minister, a thorough review of family violence in northern Alberta was undertaken.

The main objectives of the review were:

- to broadly examine family violence issues and concerns encountered by northern communities
- to identify the assistance and services available to community groups working in the area of family violence
- to recommend actions to help alleviate the problems associated with family violence.

Interviews and discussions were carried out with a number of individuals involved in the family violence area, including coordinators and board members from local crisis and family violence organizations, shelter and satellite shelter directors, government representatives from Social Services, Community Corrections and Mental Health as well as other agency and community representatives. An informal survey was conducted with 28 towns and cities in northern Alberta to obtain a profile of services available to deal with victims of family violence in each community. Also included was an extensive literature review. A review committee of northern residents working or volunteering in the area of family violence was established.

The ensuing report identified a number of key findings and conclusions:

- Family violence includes abuse directed at three groups: married or unmarried partners, children and elders.
- It can involve physical abuse, emotional or mental abuse, sexual abuse, economic abuse, and the destruction of pets and property. Other social ills, such as alcohol abuse and suicide, are often inter-related.
- Family violence is emerging as a significant social problem. Recent statistics in Alberta reveal that one in nine Alberta women is abused. In northern Alberta, that figure can translate into a potential for abuse of 5,500 women.
- Because of its sparse population and large area, northern Alberta agencies must deal with a number of special conditions:

- physical isolation
- fewer transportation connections
- less extensive services
- lack of anonymity
- difficulty in accessing safe shelter
- telecommunication difficulties
- cross-cultural concerns.

An effective approach to dealing with family violence must be comprehensive and include services in three main areas: prevention, crisis intervention, and follow-up. The report identifies the services that should be available in such a comprehensive approach:

Preventive Services

- public awareness and public education
- professional awareness and education
- self-confidence and communication courses

Crisis Intervention Services

- police protection
- effective legal system
- emergency medical services
- emergency shelter/housing
- emergency transportation
- emergency childcare
- crisis counselling
- crisis line

Follow-up Services

- coordination and cooperation of agency service
- longer-term housing
- self-help groups and support groups
- group therapy
- family counselling
- individual counselling.

A growing number of services are available in northern Alberta to deal with family violence. Some initiatives are taking place specifically focused around crisis intervention.

Northern Alberta has three shelters, four satellite shelters and two safe-home networks. Of the 28 communities surveyed, nine have crisis lines in place, and a total of 20 communities are serviced by such lines. Although these activities are positive, the organizations are struggling. Follow-up treatment and counselling programs are often over-extended and prevention services are also weak in a number of areas. Funding is a major source of concern and crisis organizations rarely have paid staff, often operating only with dedicated volunteers.

It appears to the Northern Alberta Development Council that the volunteer effort in the north is having a difficult time keeping up to the problem at hand. The Council feels that a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to the problem of family violence in northern Alberta is needed. Recommendations developed by the Council, are:

Public Awareness

1. A government multi-media campaign should be developed and implemented promoting healthy family relationships and using the approach and experience of AADAC in promoting positive lifestyles.

Regional Coordinators

2. Alberta Social Services provide a five-year funding commitment to hire regional coordinators in the northwest region and the northeast region.

Peace River Shelter

3. The appropriate government departments should work closely with the Peace Country Crisis Association and the shelter steering committee in developing a plan to establish a shelter in the town of Peace River to serve the northern area of the northwest region.

Satellite Shelters

4. Strategically located satellite shelters should be established, developed in concurrence with the regional committee and with the assistance of the regional coordinator.

Crisis Lines

5. A provincial advisory body of crisis line representatives should be established to set standards, provide training, and coordinate the efforts of the local crisis lines.

6. A provincially advertised Zenith line should be put in place to allow toll-free access to the nearest crisis line from anywhere in Alberta.

Longer Term Housing

7. Second-stage shelters should be developed in each of the northern regions to provide long-term housing and support for battered women and their families.

Batterers Treatment Program

8. Secure funding should be provided to maintain the existing treatment program in Grande Prairie and to expand that program to other rural communities.
9. Treatment should be court-mandated regarding batterers found guilty of assaulting their partners.

Follow-up Counselling and Treatment Programs

10. Additional resources should be provided to northern field offices of the Mental Health Division of Alberta Community and Occupational Health to ensure that counselling and treatment services are available for victims of family violence.

FORT CHIPEWYAN AND FORT VERMILION BICENTENNIAL

The Northern Alberta Development Council took an active role in helping Fort Chipewyan and Fort Vermilion celebrate their bicentennials. Council lent expertise to planning the celebrations and took part in various bicentennial functions.

An NADC public meeting was held in Fort Chipewyan in August as part of the bicentennial recognition. Council used this occasion to present the community with a hand-lettered, framed copy of a poem about their settlement.

As well, the Council participated in various Fort Vermilion anniversary functions.

The June public meeting of the Northern Alberta Development Council took place in Fort Vermilion where Council presented the community with a hand-lettered, framed poem composed especially for the occasion.

MEETING WITH SASKATCHEWAN OFFICIALS

In Fort Vermilion, in June, the Saskatchewan Minister of Northern Affairs, Hon. Joan Duncan, together with officials from the Saskatchewan Northern Affairs Secretariat attended a meeting with Council and with the Minister responsible for Northern Development, Hon. Al "Boomer" Adair.

The Northern Alberta Development Council shared its 25 years of experience in working with northerners with the Saskatchewan group. Such joint areas of interest as northern transportation, opening of crown lands, industrial development and tourism were discussed.

The Saskatchewan guests then attended the Fort Vermilion public meeting where they extended bicentennial congratulations to the community and presented a memento of their visit.

WHITECOURT GROWTH IMPACT STUDY

In May, 1988, Whitecourt Town Council requested planning assistance from the Northern Alberta Development Council to bring its data base up-to-date so planning for expected rapid growth could occur.

Whitecourt is a dynamic town with a population of 6,100, located on the Alaska Highway 180 kilometres northwest of Edmonton. Rated several times in the last 20 years as Alberta's fastest growing town, its economy is based on oil and gas with a now burgeoning development in forest operations. Whitecourt's growth was stalled in the early 1980s by recession but has since recovered. In the forestry sector, a \$192 million pulp mill was constructed in 1987/88 and, in March, 1988, the Premier announced government approval in principle for construction of a world-scale newsprint mill near the town.

With staff expertise provided by the Northern Alberta Development Council, a research workplan was organized. As well, the Council participated in the overall \$40,000 study costs.

A second, smaller survey obtained information on the quality-of-life in Whitecourt.

Key findings emerging from the study included:

- A population increase of 1,880 is estimated over the next five years (approximately 6% per year).
- Whitecourt is strongly represented in the age group 25 - 44 as compared to the rest of Alberta.
- There is a deficiency in hospital services.
- A housing shortage is forecasted and will peak in 1990.
- More police and fire protection, as well as educational services will be needed.

An action plan arising from the study recommends an orderly expansion of public and private services and emphasizes the need for ongoing growth management. The following needs were identified:

- dialogue between business and social groups
- implementation steps for specific groups
- annual updating of demographic and labor force data.

Study recommendations included:

- The town should develop a marketing plan to communicate its major strengths to residents and industry.
- Training programs to avoid serious labor shortages in specific occupational areas should be put in place.
- Social services agencies should improve communications about the services they can provide.
- Planning for new schools should commence immediately.

The study concludes with a development schedule of needed facilities and services based on the estimated future population.

THE YOUTH OF NORTHERN ALBERTA AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Youth has been identified as a major target group for the future growth of entrepreneurship. The Northern Alberta Development Council commissioned a study into the incidence of youth entrepreneurship in northern Alberta in order to gain a more complete understanding of the entrepreneurial phenomenon and its potential effect on young northern Albertans. The status of entrepreneurial training and of financing opportunities for young entrepreneurs was also examined.

Interviews were conducted with young entrepreneurs as well as with educators, government personnel, local officials and members of the business community. Assistance programs were researched. Entrepreneurial training was analyzed both for its effectiveness and for its availability.

It was discovered that northern Alberta youth (people under the age of 25) are widely dispersed and not easily reached. Many are unaware of entrepreneurial alternatives as a viable vocational option. Few educational institutions do an adequate job of informing young people about the entrepreneurial alternative. As well, young people do not generally seem to think in terms of self-employment and economic risk-taking.

The study found that there are relatively few youth entrepreneurs in northern Alberta. It is expected that little improvement in this situation will occur in the near future without persistent effort on the part of youth, schools, parents and financial institutions.

Three broad recommendations arose from the study:

1. The business community must be more involved in the entrepreneurial assistance process and trainers must be more thoroughly and specifically trained in entrepreneurship.
2. Efforts should be made to identify new sources of both debt and equity capital for young entrepreneurs and to encourage chartered banks to become more involved in youth-operated business activities in the future. It is suggested that some difficulties generally associated with lending money to young people could be overcome through increased use of business counselling services and seminars and the adoption of a wider variety of financing techniques.
3. One of the keys to improving entrepreneurial assistance and educational programs is to reduce the academic emphasis in favor of a more practical approach, and to enhance programs that are fundamentally based on producing business plans by adding strategic thinking, entrepreneurial self-assessment and business operating skills.

FUTURE HEALTH CARE IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

The Premier's 1988 Commission on Future Health Care for Albertans invited a submission from the Northern Alberta Development Council. Council conducted a review of past health-related research, then sponsored a one-day workshop to gather information from northern health care providers. The objectives of the workshop were:

1. to determine whether previously raised issues were resolved
2. to identify new or current issues and concerns
3. to propose recommendations to the Premier's Commission.

Several trends emerged from the research and workshop:

- Technological change is affecting the way health care is delivered in northern Alberta:
 - Qualified staff to operate computerized equipment is difficult to find.
 - Health care professionals continue to specialize, creating a shortage of "generalists." These specialists will likely locate in larger centres.
 - Improved telecommunications for education and diagnosis has a profound impact on health care in northern Alberta.
- Some economic trends that will affect future health care in the north also emerged:
 - Increased resource development, especially in the area of forestry will be responsible for a population surge.
 - Increased population will place more stresses and demands on existing health care facilities and delivery systems.
 - Increased industrial activities and population will contribute to a parallel increase in the need for social services.
- Social trends such as the examples below can be expected to affect northern Alberta:
 - The overall population will continue to age, thus impacting the types of care required.

- As the urban population of the north increases, the rural population will decline and this will make planning for health care challenging.
- Cross-cultural sensitivity in care delivery will have to be enhanced as the proportion of natives increases in urban centres.

The workshop reached some important conclusions:

- Traditional health care delivery systems are not fulfilling the needs of the north, for example, fragmentation of present services is a serious problem.
- Recruitment/retention of health professionals in the north is crucial.
- Changing lifestyle demands more emphasis on prevention and personal self-care.
- Small communities often do not have a wide range of resources and treatment facilities.
- There is a strong need for increased mental health services.

After consideration of the ideas arising from the research and workshop, along with a review of other relevant material, the Northern Alberta Development Council presented a series of recommendations to the Premier's Commission on Future Health Care. These are:

1. The health care system currently in operation in northern Alberta should be reassessed from an organizational and funding perspective to ensure it is meeting the needs of northerners. With its pattern of dispersed populations and lengthy distances between centres, northern Alberta presents unique problems to program delivery. Traditional delivery systems often do not work in the north and higher costs prohibit or reduce service.
2. Mechanisms must be developed to attract health care professionals and to retain them in northern Alberta.
3. Institutions presently educating health care providers (especially doctors/nurses) must provide, as part of the curriculum, orientation programs to rural and, specifically, northern practices.

4. The College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Alberta Medical Association and the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses should support and encourage their membership to locate in northern locales by providing orientation and inservice programs.
5. Educational institutions should attempt to de-isolate northern practitioners by providing inservice training and upgrading on a regular basis in northern locations.
6. The Family Practice Physician curriculum should include mandatory rural practice rotations.
7. A new kind of primary health care professional "from the North, trained in the North, for the North" should be encouraged.
8. Mechanisms for mobile health care services must be developed which take into consideration the uniqueness of northern Alberta and its dispersed population.
9. Improved methods of communication among health care agencies must be explored.
10. Mental health services should be upgraded and re-evaluated in northern Alberta.
11. The future philosophy of health care should be prevention-oriented and community directed, and active health campaigns and educational programs must be developed which promote a positive philosophy of prevention and well-being.
12. Special attention should be given to remote and isolated northern communities in addressing the health care needs of both a preventive and acute nature. An emphasis should be placed on preventive educational programs with adequate funding to meet the needs of these communities.

STUDENT BURSARY PROGRAM

Created in 1974, the Northern Alberta Development Council Student Bursary Program is designed to facilitate the training of technical or professional manpower in demand in northern areas of the province.

Students assisted through the program are obligated to work in northern Alberta, preferably in rural locations, for at least one year for each year of bursary support received.

The Bursary Program is administered by the Students Finance Board. A selection committee, made up of four members of the Northern Alberta Development Council and one representative each from the Metis Association of Alberta, the Students Finance Board and Alberta Career Development and Employment, is responsible for the establishment of guidelines and selection of candidates for bursary support.

Through a joint initiative between Career Development and Employment and the Northern Development Branch, the Professional Manpower Recruitment Project has assisted bursary graduates in making contact with northern employers. The project has made extensive contact with bursary recipients from both the past and the present in order to evaluate the program and to update employment status and other information.

On the basis of the selection criteria, the Selection Committee granted bursary assistance in 1988/89 to 138 applicants for a total of \$597,975. The present bursary rates are \$3,500 for single students and \$6,000 for married students per academic year. Since the inception of the program, 1984 bursaries have been awarded. These bursaries attracted professional manpower into the health care system and education, social services, agriculture, law, business, and engineering. Most of the bursary graduates have returned to the north, and at least 50% have remained in the north after completion of their return service obligation to contribute to the growing and diverse economy of the region.

MEDICAL ELECTIVE PROJECT

In September of 1984, the Northern Alberta Development Council initiated a Medical Elective Project as a follow-up to the Council's very successful Medical Recruitment Interchanges. The interchanges brought northern community representatives together with medical students from the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary.

Small grants provided through the Medical Elective Project help medical students to defray their travel and accommodation costs while taking course electives in northern Alberta. The intent of the project is to encourage medical doctors to locate in northern Alberta upon graduation by giving them a sample of life in the north.

The success of the project led to its being included as a special sub-program under the Northern Alberta Development Council Student Bursary Program. In 1988, the project was expanded to include professionals from the University of Alberta Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine under the title of the Medical Professional Exposure Project.

Since the project began, 73 medical students were funded at a cost of \$60,000. Since its inception in the fall of 1988, six occupational therapists have been funded at a cost of \$4,000 and 11 physiotherapists at a cost of \$7,000. Practicums were taken in 16 northern communities.

NEW COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

In late 1988, through public advertisements in all northern newspapers, nominations were solicited from northern community groups and organizations for nominees to replace retiring public members of the Northern Alberta Development Council.

In 1989, the Provincial Cabinet, through the Minister responsible for Northern Development, Hon. Al "Boomer" Adair, appointed four new members to the Northern Alberta Development Council. The membership of 1989/90 includes:

Bob Elliott, MLA, Grande Prairie, Chairman

Fred Gingerich, Athabasca, Vice-Chairman

Gilbert Balderston, Sexsmith

Pearl Calahasen, MLA, Lesser Slave Lake

Earl Dionne, Fort McMurray

Marcel Ducharme, Bonnyville

Elaine Gauthier, Plamondon

Kim Ghostkeeper, Paddle Prairie

Harold Junck, Swan Hills

Jim Reynolds, Fairview.

**NORTHERN
DEVELOPMENT
BRANCH**

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

The purpose of the Northern Development Branch is to participate in developing and maintaining a socio-economic environment in northern Alberta which gives maximum opportunity for inhabitants of the area to grow and prosper.

In achieving its purpose, the Branch provides all the administrative and technical support activities required by the Northern Alberta Development Council, and attempts to implement a flexible strategy of achieving specific socio-economic improvements in northern Alberta.

The Branch seeks to advance the development of human and natural resources in northern Alberta, as well as to aid in community development goals such as local decision-making and planning. It delves into a wide variety of issues as a result of briefs received by the Northern Alberta Development Council, e.g., agriculture, resource development, business development, tourism, manpower training, community and regional infrastructure, education, social services, recreation, communications and transportation.

The **Research and Coordination Section** of the Branch provides a planning and coordination function for northern Alberta socio-economic improvements. Basic research is performed and background and position papers prepared in support of the Council in its role as an advisory body to government. Examples of major research projects undertaken by the section on behalf of the Council during the fiscal year included: review papers and studies in the areas of future transportation needs, downtown revitalization, agricultural land use, professional manpower needs, regional resource development, family violence, ambulance services, tourism and water development.

The Section also facilitates and assists in the coordination of activities of various line departments and agencies to achieve maximum opportunities for socio-economic development in northern Alberta. In the area of northern coordination efforts on behalf of the Council, extensive staff time was spent on interdepartmental liaison activities involving business development projects, transportation planning, water and sewer delivery, remote community economic development, local government services, communication needs, resource development plans, commercial trapping and fishing, infrastructure services, social employment programs and vocational training.

Although not directly involved in Council activities, the **Agreement Administration Section** provides information to the members as required. The purpose of the Section is to implement the Canada/Alberta Northern Development Agreement over the 1986-91 time period. This involves assessing applications and undertaking the necessary financial disbursement and control procedures.

The **Council Administration Section** provides technical and logistical support to the Chairman and to individual Council members for the monthly meetings.

In its work as a coordinator and facilitator and, particularly, as a supplier of technical support to the Northern Alberta Development Council, the Branch continued to maintain a vital communications link between northern people and government.

2.636 (Dupl.)
(1988/89)

Northern Development SOURCE CENTRE	
Recd.	1989
Author	NADC/NDB
Main Class.	
	X-REF. ALTA. Gov't ↑
	-NADC/NDB
Locational	