
**Northern Alberta
Development
Council**

Annual Report
1993-94

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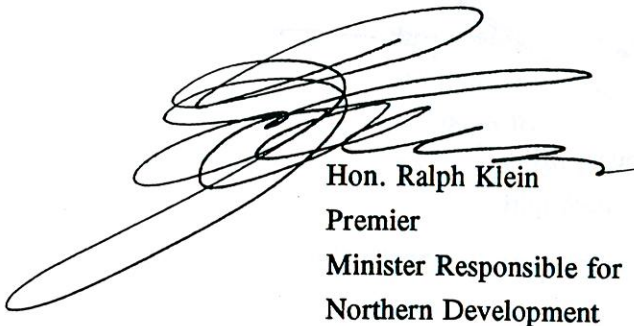
June, 1994

The Honourable Gordon Towers
Lieutenant-Governor of the
Province of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta

Sir:

The undersigned has the honour to transmit herewith the thirtieth annual report of the Northern Alberta Development Council, covering the fiscal year from April 1, 1993 to March 31, 1994.

Respectfully submitted,



Hon. Ralph Klein
Premier
Minister Responsible for
Northern Development

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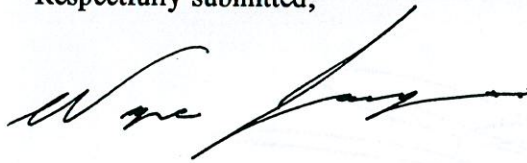
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It is my honour to present the thirtieth annual report of the Northern Alberta Development Council, covering the fiscal year from April 1, 1993 to March 31, 1994.

Respectfully submitted,



Wayne Jacques, MLA
Grande Prairie-Wapiti
Chairman

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Chairman's Report

While this annual report covers the activities of the past year, Council members and staff have spent considerable time dealing with the future direction of the NADC.

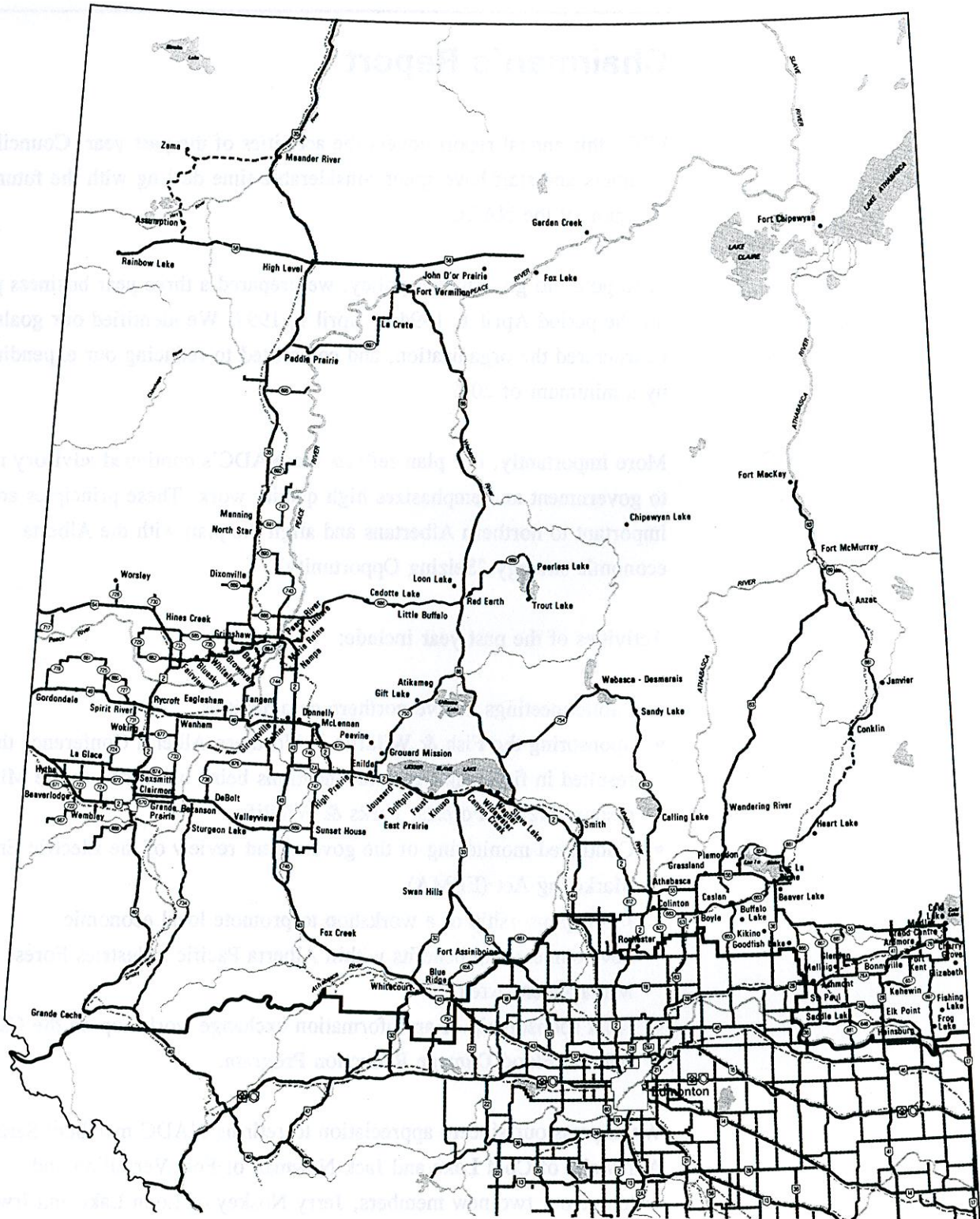
In response to government policy, we prepared a three year business plan for the period April 1, 1994 to April 1, 1997. We identified our goals, restructured the organization, and committed to reducing our expenditures by a minimum of 20%.

More importantly, our plan reflects the NADC's continued advisory role to government and emphasizes high quality work. These principles are important to northern Albertans and align the plan with the Alberta economic strategy "Seizing Opportunity".

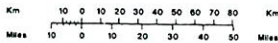
Activities of the past year include:

- Public meetings in five northern communities
- Sponsoring the Fish & Wildlife in Northern Alberta Conference that resulted in five major recommendations being submitted to the Minister responsible for Forests, Parks & Wildlife
- Continued monitoring of the government review of the Electric Energy Marketing Act (EEMA)
- Joint sponsorship of a workshop to promote local economic development and benefits within Alberta Pacific Industries Forest Management Area
- Joint sponsorship of an information exchange workshop on the Canada-Alberta Flood Damage Reduction Program.

We express our sincere appreciation to retiring NADC members Saran Ahluwalia of Cold Lake and Jack Newman of Fort Vermilion and welcome our two new members, Jerry Noskey of Loon Lake and Irwin Packham of High Level.



NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AREA



Northern Alberta Development Council

General Objectives

The Northern Alberta Development Council was created in 1963 as a five-member advisory body to the provincial government. Cabinet enlarged the NADC in 1973. The Council currently consists of eight public members and one elected member of the legislative assembly. The Council reports to Cabinet through Premier Klein in his capacity as Minister responsible for Northern Development.

The Northern Alberta Development Council Act defines the NADC's mandate. In short, the Council is to promote economic and social development in northern Alberta through practical advice to government and through the delivery of development services to northerners. The NADC achieves these goals in the following ways:

Public Meetings

The Council holds "town hall" meetings throughout each year in urban, rural and aboriginal communities across the north. Residents use the meetings as a forum to present their ideas to Council regarding development of the north.

Council reviews each presentation and where appropriate, refers briefs to the relevant government department for comment. Council members and support staff may meet with department members to clarify the issues, and any results are communicated to the brief presenter in a letter. Since 1973, the NADC has helped government successfully resolve, in whole or in part, over 60 percent of the issues raised in the more than 2700 briefs it has received.

Projects

The NADC's work is focussed on the issues that northerners raise at public meetings. When a significant number of briefs are received over

time on a given topic, the Council will devote its resources to help resolve the issue. Council's staff will help with the dialogue between northerners and government, and between different government departments.

NADC policy reviews and development projects address social and economic topics of special interest to northern Alberta. In the past year, major Council efforts have included a review of fish and wildlife issues and the encouragement of local employment in resource development in small aboriginal communities.

The Council draws attention to important issues through conferences and seminars. These forums give northerners a chance to share information, discuss issues, and recommend ways to address important topics.

Council's most recent events included a conference on northern fish and wildlife management issues, a seminar on flood damage reduction for municipalities, and a local benefits workshop held in conjunction with Alberta Pacific Ltd.

Northern Alberta Development Council Bursary

The Northern Alberta Development Council Bursary program, administered by the Students Finance Board, attracts professionally trained Albertans to the north. Graduates who benefit from bursary funds must work in the north for a minimum of one year after completing their studies. The program also encourages northern students to attend post-secondary educational institutions.

The Northern Alberta Development Council Bursary Program is piloting a partnership award initiative which allows employers and community organizations to match bursary funds.

Northern Development Agreement/Northern Alberta Agreement

The Canada/Alberta Northern Development Subsidiary Agreement (known as the Northern Development Agreement) will conclude in the 1994/95

fiscal year. Between April 1986 and March 1992 the Agreement approved 420 community, regional, educational, and small business economic development initiatives. The Agreement continues to provide funding to projects approved during its mandate. A program evaluation concluded that the Northern Development Agreement was successful in terms of economic diversification and broad program uptake by northerners.

The Northern Alberta Agreement is one of the Western Economic Partnership Agreements. It provides assistance to community organizations, Band Councils, and Metis Settlements with the objective of strengthening and diversifying the northern economy. It was signed in 1992 and will accept applications until December 31, 1994. Eligible projects include training, community economic planning, and support to economic sector initiatives.

New Council Appointments

Every year, the NADC solicits nomination letters from northern community groups and organizations for candidates to replace retiring public members of the Council. Council's membership reflects the geographical and vocational diversity of northern communities. In 1993/94, two new councillors were appointed. The membership included:

Al "Boomer" Adair, MLA, Peace River, Chairman (April-June)
Wayne Jacques, MLA, Grande Prairie, Chairman (August-March)
Marlin Sexauer, Whitecourt, Deputy Chairman
Saran Ahluwalia, Cold Lake
Jim Carbery, Fort McMurray
Diana Knight, Valleyview
Don Lussier, Athabasca
Floyd McLennan, Grande Cache
Jack Newman, Fort Vermilion
Gwen Tegart, Fairview

Hon. Premier Ralph Klein is the Minister responsible for the Northern Alberta Development Council.

Northern Alberta Development Council Activities

Public Meetings

1993-94 Public Meetings of the Northern Alberta Development Council	
Elk Point	April
Fort Chipewyan	September
Whitecourt	October
Peace River	November
Sexsmith	February

In addition to public meetings, Council held three administrative meetings in Peace River and one in Edmonton.

Briefs

Northern individuals and groups presented 115 briefs at public meetings in 1993-94. Of this total, 21 briefs were received from Berwyn, Fairview, Hines Creek, Manning, Peace River and Worsley in the northwest region; 23 from Fort Fitzgerald, Fort Chipewyan, and Fort McMurray in the northeast region; 16 from Cadotte Lake, Desmarais, High Prairie, Red Earth, Swan Hills and Whitecourt in the central region; 26 from Athabasca, Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Elk Point, Glendon, Grand Centre, Lac La Biche and St. Paul in the southeast region; 27 from Donnelly, Falher, Fox Creek, Girouxville, Grande Cache, Grande Prairie, Hythe, Rycroft, Sexsmith, Spirit River, Tangent and Valleyview in the southwest region. Two briefs were received from Vermilion and Fort Smith, N.W.T., which are out of the NADC area.

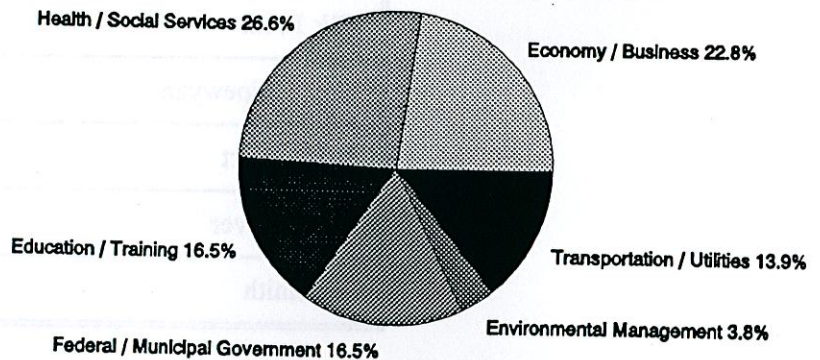
The status of any brief submitted to Council is available by contacting the

Northern Development Branch in Peace River.

The following chart shows a breakdown of the issues addressed in public briefs over the past year:

Issues Received by Topic Area

Fiscal Year 1993 - 1994



It is through this public consultation work such as NADC meetings that Council members have earned a reputation as hard-working intermediaries, helping to communicate northern concerns to government service providers.

Northern Development's 1993-94 to 1996-97 Business Plan

The Premier requested that each department and agency of government produce a business plan to guide its operations for the next three years. Throughout the past year the Council and Branch developed a new business plan. The highlights of Northern Development's 1993-94 to 1996-97 plan are:

- The Northern Alberta Development Council will reduce its budget by 20 per cent. This includes a five per cent reduction in honoraria for Council members.
- The Northern Development Agreement will wind down as scheduled in 1994-95.
- The Northern Alberta Agreement will continue, but without its program of direct business assistance.

The NADC is implementing its new business plan. As part of its commitment to continuous improvement, Council conducted a survey of public meeting participants. This survey asked how the NADC might better serve northerners. Council also held a two-day planning session to discuss ways to improve its operations.

The NADC will continue to communicate the unique needs of northerners to government. It will follow a schedule of five public meetings in the north each year.

The Council has reduced its administrative costs but will remain a key source of assistance and advice for important northern community projects. It will also encourage communities to participate in the NADC Bursary Program and Bursary Partnership Program.

To further reduce management and administrative costs, the Northern Development Branch, Council's support group, has reorganized.

Summary of Major NADC Projects

Fish and Wildlife in Northern Alberta

In February 1993, the NADC, in cooperation with Alberta Environmental Protection, began a major review of fish and wildlife management in northern Alberta. The review responded to numerous public briefs received by the Council. Its goal was to identify how northerners could become better involved in managing local fish and wildlife resources.

A steering committee of resource users and representatives from northern municipalities, aboriginal communities, and the NADC was set up to oversee the review. The review consisted of two parts:

- a background study to collect ideas from northerners on how to strengthen community involvement in fish and wildlife management
- a major regional conference to review the study findings and discuss new approaches to fish and wildlife management

Background Study

The background study involved extensive consultation with close to 200 people in communities across northern Alberta. Participants were asked what they saw as the key fish and wildlife issues emerging in the north. The majority of comments were in four topic areas:

- allocation of fish and wildlife resources between recreational, commercial and traditional users
- protection and enhancement of critical fish and wildlife populations and habitat
- impact of industrial development on fish and wildlife
- concerns related to aboriginal and treaty rights

Other issues included the need to improve the quality of data on the north's fish and wildlife and the importance of public education to successful resource management.

In general, study participants supported recent government efforts to increase community involvement in addressing these issues. However, they indicated that more work needed to be done. Their suggestions for improving community involvement included:

- adopting a community-based approach to fish and wildlife management
- strengthening the involvement of aboriginal communities in resource management
- adjusting government operations to encourage greater community involvement in decision-making
- increasing the amount of data available on the north's fish and wildlife

- promoting public education and awareness as part of the province's community involvement efforts

Conference

One hundred and sixty delegates attended the regional conference held in Grande Prairie on December 2-3, 1993. They confirmed many of the findings from the background study. However, delegates and speakers provided additional insights that served to expand the NADC's understanding of fish and wildlife issues in the north. Some of the key points raised by delegates included:

- adopting an ecosystem approach to managing fish and wildlife
- establishing co-management agreements with aboriginal communities and other resource users to manage natural resources
- increasing government commitment to local decision-making
- ensuring that all resource users, including those living outside the affected area, are considered when making resource management decisions.
- promoting greater cooperation and understanding between aboriginal, recreational and commercial users
- increasing efforts to collect fish and wildlife data including greater use of local and traditional knowledge.

NADC Position Paper

The results of the conference and Council's final recommendations are contained in the NADC's *Fish and Wildlife in Northern Alberta: Position Paper & Conference Summary*, published in February 1994. Each of the recommendations is supported by a set of strategies to guide its implementation. The recommendations include the need to:

- strengthen and expand the community involvement efforts of Fish and Wildlife Services
- develop structured co-management agreements with aboriginal governments and other resource users in the north
- adjust the resource planning activities of Alberta Environmental Protection to accommodate greater community involvement in decision-

making

- place a higher priority on collecting data in support of the department's community involvement efforts

The position paper also recommends that an interdepartmental committee be established to prepare a written response to the NADC recommendations.

NADC Submission to the Alberta Medical Association Task Force on Physician Resources

In 1993, the Alberta Medical Association struck a task force to review physician resources and planning in Alberta. The NADC sent a delegation to present northern concerns to the task force.

Northern residents and communities frequently present briefs to the NADC outlining the difficulties of recruiting and retaining physicians. Seventy percent of the briefs the NADC has received on the topic of professional recruitment relate to physicians.

Council's presentation to the AMA Task Force on Physician Resources was an important vehicle to help address physician shortages in the north. Council's submission included the following points:

- Restrictions on the supply of physicians threaten the north with chronic physician shortages.
- Measures are needed to increase the rate of recruitment and retention of Canadian-trained physicians to the north.
- Northerners will continue to voice serious concerns about the maldistribution of physicians in Alberta.
- Programs and incentives, like the Rural Physician Action Plan, should be aggressively pursued to support the recruitment and practice of physicians in the north.

- Many remote and aboriginal communities in the north experience special difficulties in accessing physician services.
- The AMA should review to what extent minimum levels of medical services are being achieved in northern Alberta's remote and aboriginal communities.
- The AMA should identify measures to increase the provision of physician services to remote and aboriginal communities in the north.

A Study of Physician Recruitment in Rural Alberta

The NADC also initiated a study to find practical strategies that rural communities could use to better recruit and retain physicians. Alberta Health funded the research and produced a report titled "Pockets of Good News - Physician Recruitment in Rural Alberta." The NADC was represented on the project steering committee.

Conclusions

- the Rural Physician Action Plan is helping minimize the professional barriers to rural practice
- the number of physicians seeking rural positions may increase in the next few years
- communities that are successful at recruiting and retaining physicians have developed comprehensive strategies to build on their strengths, compensate for their limitations, and match their vision and goals with the dreams and pressures of potential rural physicians
- the challenges of recruiting physicians to Alberta's smallest and most isolated rural communities will remain. Many of these communities are in northern Alberta.

Workshop on Economic Opportunities in the Woodlands

In the past five years aboriginal communities within AIPac's Forest Management Area (FMA) have presented 40 briefs to the Council on the topic of regional development. These communities want to encourage more local benefits from resource development in the region, especially forest development. Their briefs also addressed training, access to hiring, and business development.

In January, 1994, the NADC and AIPac co-sponsored the "*Economic Opportunities in the Woodlands*" workshop. The workshop focused on the economic needs and concerns of the aboriginal communities within AIPac's FMA. Its purpose was to respond to the economic needs and concerns of the aboriginal communities located within the AIPac FMA.

About 100 people representing communities, industry, and government attended the workshop. Communities were represented by aboriginal leaders, businessmen, and residents. The NADC prepared a workshop summary report for the participants. A working team of NADC and AIPac officials developed an action plan to implement the suggestions and findings of the workshop.

Canada-Alberta Flood Damage Reduction Program Information Workshop

In response to a public request, the Northern Alberta Development Council organized an information workshop on the Canada-Alberta Flood Damage Reduction Program (FDR). The NADC, Alberta Environmental Protection, and Environment Canada co-sponsored the "*Flood Damage Reduction Information Workshop*".

This workshop focused on information sharing. It featured presentations from federal and provincial representatives. The goal was to increase the awareness of northern municipalities about the FDR program. Municipalities were also asked to express their ideas and suggestions on the future course of the program.

About 30 representatives from affected municipalities participated in the workshop. The NADC compiled and distributed a workshop summary report to the communities. The results of the workshop are under review by both governments.

Working Together Workshop for the Town of Elk Point

The "*Working Together*" workshop resulted from a request made at the NADC public meeting in Elk Point. The Elk Point and District Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Elk Point asked the NADC to help identify resources that the community could use to improve the local economy.

The goal of the workshop was to generate ideas from within the community, and choose several projects that would enhance economic development in Elk Point. A working group of community, regional, and government representatives devised the format for the workshop.

About 25 community members participated. They identified nine projects as priorities to enhance economic development in the Town of Elk Point. A workshop report was distributed to all participants.

Northern Recycling Coordination Project

The Northern Alberta Development Council has received 12 briefs on recycling in northern Alberta in the past three years. The NADC played a key role in the formation of the Association of Northern Coordinated Action for Recycling Enterprises (Northern CARE). Northern CARE is a non-profit society dedicated to promoting practical and innovative recycling initiatives for northern Alberta. The board of directors includes representatives from northern municipalities, recycling groups, and industry.

Northern CARE manages a northern recycling coordination project. This project provides direct advisory, coordination, and technical services to northern municipalities and recycling groups.

Peace Arch Project

The NADC has a long-standing commitment to the development of aboriginal communities. In 1988 the NADC began the Peace Arch Project with the participation of eight communities, industry, and government. The project increases employment and business opportunities for residents living in small and isolated communities in north central Alberta.

The majority of the project's work is carried out by a coordinator based at Alberta Vocational Centre in Slave Lake. The coordinator's primary focus is to work with resource firms and contractors to encourage more hiring of native people. The Peace Arch Project also includes an employment office in Red Earth that works closely with local industry to arrange special training courses.

The current industry sponsor of Peace Arch is International Colin Energy Ltd. The project also receives funds from other oil and gas firms, forestry companies, contracts, and the aboriginal communities. The Northern Development Branch serves as secretary to this community-based project.

The Peace Arch Project is in its seventh year of operations and has become a very successful local employment agency. Both long-term and seasonal local employment have been realized. This momentum will be continued as remote communities assume greater responsibility for the project.

Northern Development Branch

Purpose

The purpose of the Northern Development Branch is to promote social and economic development in northern Alberta. It does this through practical advice to government and through the delivery of development services to northerners.

To achieve its purpose, the Branch provides all the administrative and technical support required by the Northern Alberta Development Council.

Branch Reorganization

The Northern Development Branch was reorganized in January 1994 due to government downsizing requirements and the NADC business plan. The guiding principles of reorganization were:

- make the best use of remaining resources
- maintain a commitment to total quality management
- continue administrative and technical support to the NADC
- minimize the loss of services to clients

The Branch is re-organized into two units, Economic Development and Community and Social Development. Each provides support services to the NADC, especially in arranging public meetings and following up briefs received at these meetings. Unit staff carry out projects on behalf of Council and their work includes involvement in multi-departmental project steering committees, policy development, and conducting workshops.

1993/94 Financial Statement

Expenditures by Program

	<u>Approved Budget</u>	<u>Actual Expenditures</u>
Northern Alberta Development Council	1 307 201.	1 239 614.
Canada/Alberta Northern Development Agreement (Note 1)	3 516 509.	3 220 626.
Canada/Alberta Partnership Agreement (Northern Alberta Agreement) (Note 2)	<u>2 100 000.</u>	<u>1 238 219.</u>
TOTALS	<u>6 923 710.</u>	<u>5 698 459.</u>

Expenditures by Category

	<u>Approved Budget</u>	<u>Actual Expenditures</u>
Manpower	1 038 184.	934 202.
Supplies/Services	903 460.	800 621.
Grants	4 960 000.	3 946 137.
Other Expenditures	16 066.	11 603.
Fixed Assets	<u>6 000.</u>	<u>5 896.</u>
TOTALS	<u>6 923 710.</u>	<u>5 698 459.</u>

(Note 1) The Canada/Alberta Northern Development Subsidiary Agreement (known as the Northern Development Agreement) will conclude in the 1994/95 fiscal year. Between April 1986 and March 1992 the Agreement approved 420 community, regional, educational, and small business economic development initiatives. The Agreement continues to provide funding to projects approved during its mandate. A program evaluation concluded that the Northern Development Agreement was successful in terms of economic diversification and broad program uptake by northerners.

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