



NADC Communiqué

March 23, 2007

Denis Ducharme, MLA and Chair of the Northern Alberta Development Council welcomed the Council to his constituency of Bonnyville-Cold Lake on March 14-16, 2007. Council met with local government leaders and community representatives at the 4 Wing Air Force Base in Cold Lake.

BC Fair Share Program

Colin Griffith, Project Coordinator/ Negotiator, BC Fair Share Project (1991-2005), gave a presentation to Council on the program recently implemented in Northern BC. The presentation was timely, as Alberta continues to face new growth pressures and revenues increase from resource development in the north.

The BC program divides a portion of industry revenue among the participating communities and municipalities affected by the development. Mr. Griffith said the program's success requires a united coalition, strong leadership and genuine cooperation between stakeholders. His experience suggests that respecting territorial boundaries, operating on a win-win principle, and negotiating agreements in advance were key to maintaining the integrity and fairness of the BC revenue sharing program.

Regional Stakeholders Forum: Cold Lake

Regional stakeholders shared their concerns surrounding rapid growth and development in their communities and their challenges in maintaining services with current funding levels.

Infrastructure: Issues raised included airport upgrades, paving Highway 855 through to Highway 63 and support for a regional water line.

Education: Concerns surrounding the high cost of providing Career and Technology (CTS) credits to students, the lack of trained specialists for a growing number of students with special needs and student funding for First Nations students were shared, along with information on apprenticeship grants available through the provincial government.

Community Development: Council was updated on the Rural Development Strategy and asked to support rural initiatives. Funding required to maintain historic sites in northern Alberta was discussed, along with the

importance of industry involvement in community development.

NADC Health Committee

The NADC Health Committee and Council held a meeting at the Cold Lake Hospital on March 16, 2007 with northern health region representatives to talk about health funding concerns and difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff and physicians. The NADC will present recommendations on northern health care to the Minister of Health and Wellness.

NADC Updates

Council

Best wishes to Mike Mihaly, Maurice Rivard and Wendell MacEachern as they finish their term this month as members of the NADC. New Council appointments will be announced in April 2007.

Upcoming

- ✓ Northwest Mayors and Reeves Meeting in High Level, April 27, 2007.
- ✓ Summary reports from the Slave Lake (Housing/ Labour) and Smoky River (Small Business/ Community Engagement) Opportunity Seminars will be available online in April.

Contact the NADC if you would like an Opportunity Seminar held in your area.

Provide your input on Climate Change

The Alberta government is seeking public input to help shape Alberta's next plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout the province.

Albertans from all sectors are encouraged to participate by using the fact book to learn more about climate change in Alberta and then respond by mail or the online questionnaire by **April 25**.

Public information workshops on Alberta's Climate Change Plan will be held throughout the province, including the following northern communities:

Grande Prairie - Mar 29, 2007
Slave Lake - April 1, 2007
Fort McMurray - April 16, 2007

For more information visit:
www.gov.ab.ca/env/climate

A special thank you to the City of Cold Lake, the M.D. of Bonnyville and the officers and staff at 4 Wing Cold Lake for their hospitality during the Council meeting.

For more information contact the NADC office at (780) 624-6274 or visit www.nadc.gov.ab.ca