

The Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) met in Fort McMurray, October 31- November 1, 2007, for its regular administration meeting and Regional Stakeholders' Forum.

Breakfast Meeting and Tours

The NADC was welcomed to Fort McMurray by the Honourable Guy Boutillier, Minister of International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations, along with Mayor Melissa Blake and the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, who hosted the breakfast meeting. The NADC toured development projects in Fort McMurray, including the new Syncrude Sport & Wellness Centre at Keyano College and took an aerial tour of the oilsands production sites.

Nuclear Energy

Mr. Guy Huntingford along with Dr. Stella Swanson and Dr. Jeremy Whitlock of Energy Alberta gave an informational presentation to Council on the nuclear power plant proposed for the Peace Region.

Regional Stakeholders' Forum: Fort McMurray

Presentation topics included: health, education, transportation, environment, and major developments in the oilsands industry.

Health: Positive information was shared including increased funding for the Northern Lights Health Region, the success of the "Flying Docs Program" and the increased capacity in recruitment. Concerns surrounding access to land, and the funding formula were raised, as well as the need for more medical training options in the North.

Transportation: Issues surrounding the pending closure of the Athabasca Northern Railway were raised, particularly safety concerns regarding increased transport traffic on Highway 63, should the rail shut down.

Education: Expansion of upgrading, trades, technology and heavy equipment training programs, along with affordable access to housing were cited as critical components to increasing student enrolments. Funding based on historical data was cited as a major roadblock to planning for future programming and building capacity.

Environment and Industry: Alberta Environment provided an update on their expanding assurance and compliance capacity to further ensure the integrity of the environment in the midst of the oilsands development.

Vacant Council Positions

Advertisements seeking applications for four vacant Council positions will be posted in local papers the last week in November and the first week of December. The NADC is seeking candidates from the Lesser Slave Lake, Athabasca-Redwater, Lac La Biche-St. Paul and Dunvegan-Central Peace constituencies to begin a term of up to four years beginning in April 2008. These advertisements will also be available on our website.

2009 Challenge North Conference

The NADC is in the preliminary stages of planning its 2009 Challenge North Conference. Expressions of interest for hosting have been sent to municipalities and communities within the region. The deadline for expressions of interest is December 14, 2007. For more information visit our website or contact the NADC Peace River office.

Upcoming Events

- Next Regional Stakeholders' Forum will be in Beaverlodge, January 16 & 17, 2008.
- Next Northwest Mayors and Reeves meeting in Grande Prairie, January 11, 2008.
- Denis Ducharme, Chair of the NADC and MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake will represent Alberta at the next Northern Development Ministers' Forum in Ottawa, November 22-23, 2007. Dan Dibbelt, Executive Director of the NADC and a small youth contingent will accompany.

Rural Alberta's Development Fund Contact

For information and assistance on the application process for the Northern Region contact:

Brenda Finch, Project Officer

Phone: 1-(877) - 940-7233

E-mail: brenda.finch@ruralalbertasfund.com

For more information contact the NADC office at (780) 624-6274. Dial 310-0000 first for toll free access.

E-mail: nadc.council@gov.ab.ca or visit www.nadc.gov.ab.ca