

Members of the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) met in Edmonton on June 3, 2010

Planning Session

The NADC held a successful planning session at the end of March, 2010. In addition to establishing a strategic plan for the coming years, Council made a change to its meeting structure. Regular Council meetings will be held in Edmonton for 2010. This will allow Council the opportunity to meet with other ministries, MLAs, organizations and interest groups that are either centred in the Edmonton area or that can more easily get to Edmonton. On a more frequent basis, individual Council members, along with NADC Chair Robin Campbell and Executive Director Dan Dibbelt, will meet with community stakeholders in the regions they represent. This more direct contact with key leaders in their communities will allow for open discussion about the issues and concerns in the area.

Edmonton Meeting

The first Edmonton meeting was held on June 3, 2010 and welcomed four presentations.

Presentations

- Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance provided additional information on a proposed forestry centre of excellence. They provided an overview of the consultant study done on the feasibility of such a centre and outlined their plans for moving the project ahead.
- Alberta Innovates – Technology Futures (formerly the Alberta Research Council) presented the findings from a research project investigating the properties and potential of Peace Region flax. Representatives thanked the NADC for their support of the project.
- The County of Grande Prairie provided an update on the inland multi-modal logistics park planned for Grande Prairie. This project will enhance the region's export and import opportunities by reducing the costs of transportation to and from the region.
- Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) gave a brief history of electric power operations in the province, and explained current practices and plans for the future.

NADC Updates/ Upcoming Events

- NADC welcomes Eva Urlacher of Cold Lake as a new member to the Council. Mrs. Urlacher replaces Joe Layton from Bonnyville who served on the Council for three years. The NADC extends its appreciation to Mr. Layton for his commitment to Council priorities and wishes him well in his future endeavours.
- Three Council members have agreed to extend their terms by one year: Iris Callioux of Peace River, Dave Kirschner of Fort McMurray and Williard Strebchuk of Whitecourt.
- Simonne Skrik and Donna Evans have joined the NADC team in the Peace River office. Both Simonne and Donna bring a wealth of enthusiasm and experience to the NADC office.
- Representatives from northern municipalities, housing associations and other stakeholders attended a workshop co-hosted by the NADC and the Northern Sunrise County in St. Isidore on April 28, 2010. The workshop focused on the need to develop attainable housing for young professionals with little or no equity. Presentations included a review of northern demographics, recruitment and retention challenges and potential solutions. Another workshop is tentatively scheduled for the fall. Please contact the NADC Peace River office if you would like to be considered to co-host a workshop on northern housing.
- The La Crete Health Committee is pleased to report that two doctors have been hired for that community.
- The NADC is in the developmental stages of a new study on northern rural and remote education. Interviews with the Superintendents of School Zones 1 and 2/3 are scheduled throughout the month of June. For more information on the study, contact Natalie Butler, NADC, at 780-624-6350.
- The Northern Alberta Elected Leaders will meet in Spirit River on June 25, 2010.
- The next NADC meeting is planned for September 2010.

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