

NADC welcomes three new members

Iris Callioux of Peace River, David Kirschner of Fort McMurray, and Joseph Layton of Bonnyville were appointed to three-year terms to the Northern Alberta Development Council this month. They bring a wealth of experience in the private, public and volunteer sectors in Northern Alberta.

Annual NADC meeting with northern MLAs

The Northern Alberta Development Council held its annual breakfast meeting with northern MLAs on May 8th to talk about common issues.

Improving access to the North continues to be a priority. The MLAs identified the East-West Connector, Highway 88, connecting Highways 43 and 40, twinning Highway 2, and a strategy to reduce bottlenecks on major routes as opportunities to improve road access. Developing common corridors for pipelines/power lines/roadways was viewed as important to minimize the imprint of infrastructure development on the land. In addition, inadequate rail service was identified as a significant threat to the viability of the northern agriculture industry.

The value of alternative training models in secondary schools, such as the pilot Youth Apprenticeship Program (YAP) and importance of accessibility to post-secondary education in the north were discussed. Other topics raised included affordable housing and tourism.

NADC discusses medical education in the North

The NADC and the University of Alberta Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry will explore opportunities to work together to increase educational options to help address doctor shortages in the North. The NADC met with faculty representatives earlier this month to better understand barriers faced by the university in training doctors.



<http://www.albertaruralhealth.ab.ca/>

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NADC meets with southern MLAs

The Northern Alberta Development Council met with southern MLAs on May 15th to share information on northern issues and the benefits of northern development to southern Alberta. Southern MLAs asked about labour challenges, including Aboriginal participation in the workforce. Transportation, environment, education and social issues were other areas of interest. The NADC was encouraged to host a northern tour for southern MLAs, similar to one conducted in 2006, to continue increasing awareness of the north.

NADC bursary program expanded

The NADC Bursary has increased from \$3,000 to \$3,500 for this year, and an additional 25 students will be able to receive the bursary, bringing the total to 150. Students from across Alberta can apply for this return service bursary each year by May 15th. In addition, northern businesses or community organizations continue to have the opportunity through the Bursary Partnerships Program to sponsor return service bursaries for the students of their choice in partnership with NADC. If you are interested in being a sponsor, contact the NADC office.

Access the \$100 million Rural Development Fund

The Rural Development Fund is looking for new or innovative projects. Contact Judy Ferguson at judy.ferguson@ruralalbertasfund.com for information on project eligibility, criteria and guidelines. For a presentation on the fund, contact Godfrey Huybregts, Director of Communications at godfrey@marcommworks.ca. Alternatively, call toll free at 1-877-940-7233 (ext 101) or visit www.ruralalbertasfund.com.

ALBERTA GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

Land Use Framework

Closing Date: Thursday, May 31, 2007

Crime Reduction and Safe Communities

Closing Date: Thursday, May 31, 2007

Alberta Royalty Review

Closing Date: Friday, June 22, 2007

For online submissions and more information on current public consultations go to:

<http://www.gov.ab.ca/home/consultations.cfm>