



NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

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Message from Council

On behalf of the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC), we are pleased to present our achievements for the April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 fiscal year.

In fulfilling our mission as the advisor to the Government of Alberta on issues relating to and affecting the north, the Council has continued to expand its reach across the region. In doing so, the Council strengthened existing and built new partnerships with community stakeholders to identify and address critical issues emerging across northern Alberta.

The key priority issues that the Council focused on included: infrastructure and transportation; resource management; developing a skilled workforce; and strengthening communities through local and regional engagement. Working hard to engage key stakeholders, the Council aimed to advance these priority issues and fulfill our vision of a stronger Alberta through a stronger north. Accomplishments and status updates relating to these priority issues are presented in this report.

In addition to advancing key priority issues, the Northern Alberta Development Council's bursary program continued to be highly successful in attracting skilled professionals to the north. This fiscal year, the program offered over 250 return service bursaries to students. The program also received increased funding of \$500,000 available to First Nation, Métis and Inuit learners.

The Council's accomplishments could not be achieved alone. We extend our gratitude to all those who have worked with the Council to help us reach our goals and who played a crucial role in building a stronger north. This includes the dedicated department staff in Indigenous Relations as well as engaged individuals, communities and organizations.

In this upcoming fiscal year, the Council will remain committed as we join the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade to make significant impacts in the NADC region and to ensure that the north is included in the development of government programs and policies.

Overview of the Northern Alberta Development Council

Overview

The Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) is a provincial government agency that investigates northern Alberta's social and economic development priorities, programs and services as required by northern residents and provides advice and recommendations to Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly and ministries.

The Council is a vital part of the ongoing work of growing healthy northern communities and supporting a robust economy. Established under the Northern Alberta Development Council Act (S.A. 1963, c.41), the Council is an advisory agency accountable to the Minister of Indigenous Relations.

Mandate

The mandate of the Council, as set out in the Northern Alberta Development Council Act, is to investigate, monitor, evaluate, plan and promote practical measures to foster and advance general development in northern Alberta and to advise the government accordingly. The Council may investigate the requirements of the people living in northern Alberta and make recommendations related to:

- (a) social and economic development;
- (b) development of communities and service delivery; and
- (c) development of government services and programs.

Governance

The Council is made up of nine public members and a Chair appointed by the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta. Council membership reflects the geographic, cultural and vocational diversity of northern communities. Council engages communities and stakeholders on local and regional issues. A summary of the Council's engagement is listed in Appendix B.

Chair

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	DATES OF SERVICE
Vacant		

Council

NAME	REGION	APPOINTMENT DATE
Williard Strebchuk (Vice Chair)	Whitecourt	April 26, 2006
Brian Allen	Grimshaw	May 7, 2008
Peter Braun	La Crete	May 7, 2014
Andre Harpe	Grande Prairie	April 16, 2009
Ken Noskey	High Prairie	March 8, 2012
Pat O'Neill	St. Paul	March 7, 2008
Brad Sakowich	Athabasca	May 7, 2014
Jason Schulz	Fort McMurray	May 7, 2014
Eva Urlacher	Cold Lake	April 15, 2010

Vision, Mission and Key Strategies

Vision

The Council's vision is "a stronger Alberta through a stronger north."

Mission

To identify and implement sustainable measures that will advance northern development and advise government on opportunities and issues for the benefit of Albertans.

Key Strategies

In keeping with the NADC's legislated mandate, the following lines of business have been identified:

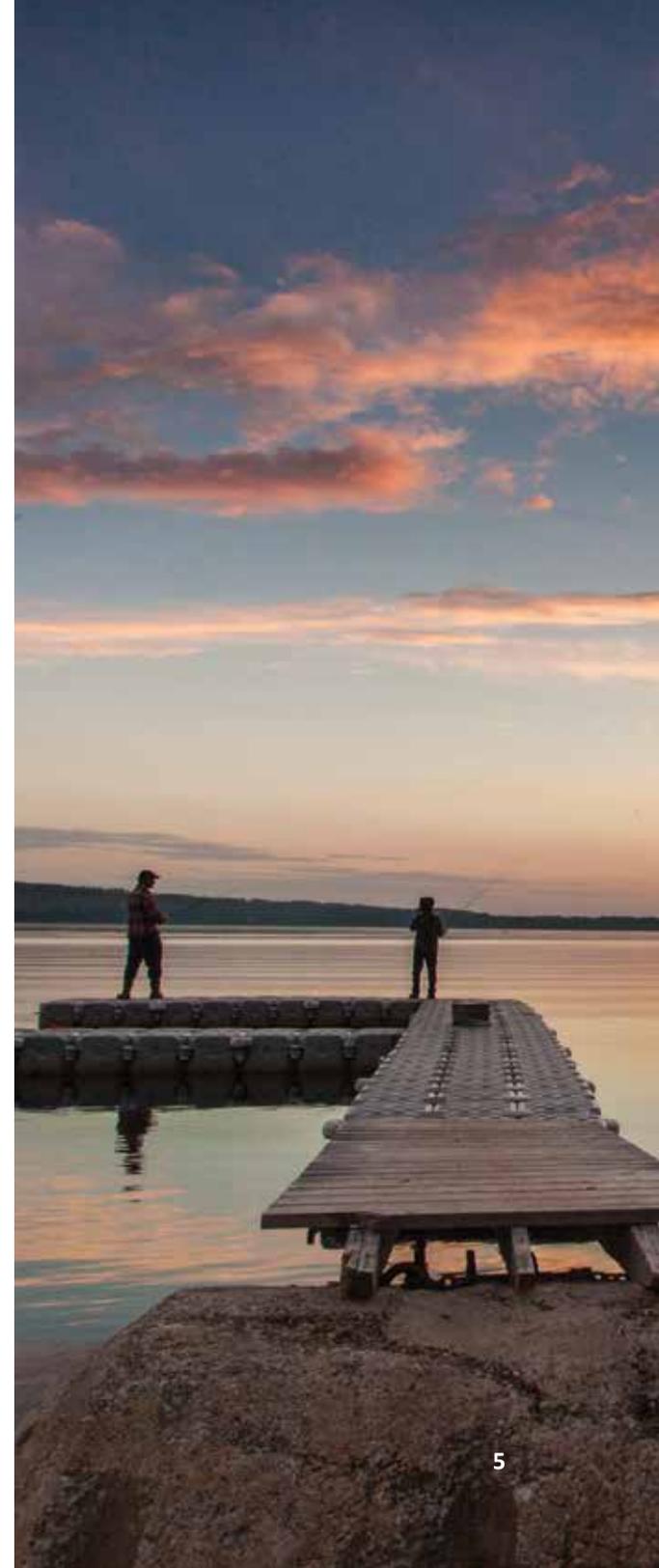
1. Advising government on issues affecting northern Alberta;
2. Outreach and community engagement; and
3. Supporting initiatives to increase northern skill levels.

NADC Office Locations

Office locations are in Peace River, Bonnyville, Fort McMurray and Edmonton.

NADC Region: In Brief*





Northern
Alberta
Development
Council

NADC Goals and Key Strategies



Goal one: Timely communication with government and northerners

To ensure the work of Council is relevant and timely, the NADC has a diversified communications strategy and a variety of mediums

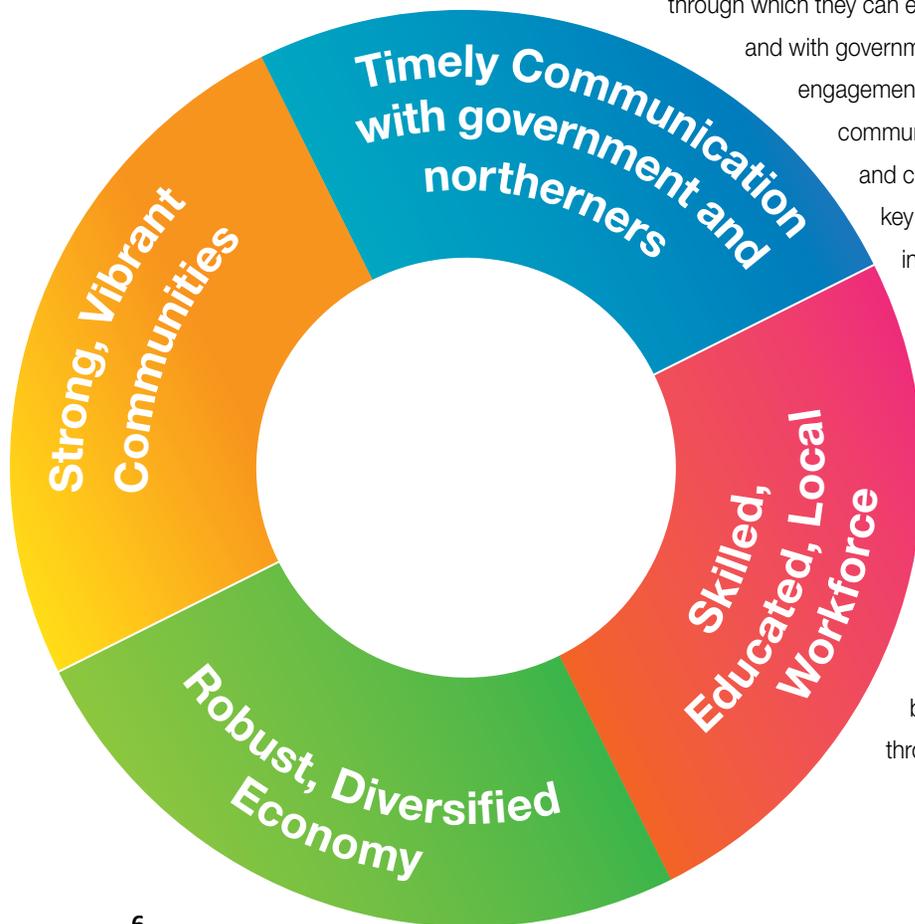
through which they can engage with the north and with government. Supporting this engagement, the NADC has communications protocols and channels through which key messages are shared internally with government and to northern stakeholders.

NADC staff work internally to build connections and synergies with the Ministry's senior leadership and advance the business of the NADC through representation on

cross-ministry committees. Council works through the Chair and Minister responsible for Northern Development to advance its work on a political level and throughout the region.

Key Strategies:

- Inform government of emerging issues and trends impacting northern Alberta.
- Identify and implement strategic actions to address critical issues and advance policy objectives.
- Support northern residents and communities in accessing essential services, training and business development opportunities through internal communication on policy development and cross-ministry initiatives impacting the north.
- Encourage dialogue between northern residents, small and medium enterprises, industry, municipalities and Indigenous communities through robust external communication mediums.
- Build Council's knowledge and timely understanding of the gaps, issues and potential related to industry and community development in northern Alberta.
- Collaborate with other jurisdictions to advance a coordinated approach to the promotion of northern potential and challenges.





Goal two: Skilled, Educated, Local Workforce

To support the economy in northern Alberta, its labour force has to address the identified needs of northern communities and the requirements of industries operating within the region. The provision of specialized and localized training options and the inclusion of underrepresented populations is essential in ensuring that local populations participate fully in the region's growth and development.

Key Strategies:

- In partnership with Advanced Education, attract and retain skilled workers in the north.
- In partnership with Advanced Education, enhance support for training and workforce participation of First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples in the north.
- Support northern student, employer and community training needs through labour market research, capacity building and responsive post-secondary programming delivered through the northern colleges.
- Support opportunities for Indigenous peoples' participation in the workforce.

- Ensure current research on education and employment trends in northern Alberta is available for alignment of bursary program funding and planning for future growth in the region.
- Increase retention potential of northern professionals through promotion of northern career opportunities and engagement of northern business and industry in the recruitment process for high demand/hard to recruit to careers.





Goal three: Robust, Diversified Economy

This goal recognizes that continued economic growth is dependent on having the necessary transportation networks, access to markets and infrastructure to support this growth as well as looking at diversifying the economy based on the unique characteristics of the region. Additionally, the resilience of northern communities in the face of volatility in resource prices and limited alternatives to economic diversification remains a challenge.

Key Strategies:

- Deliver expert information on key social and economic development opportunities in the northern region.
- Build and develop relationships with northern municipal leaders to ensure timely access to intelligence on municipal priorities and issues.
- Build on existing data to ensure Council and northerners have access to appropriate regional data to advocate for required programs and initiatives through a medium that is user friendly and applicable to northern businesses, industry and municipalities.

- Advance rationale for funding requirements for northern priorities through comprehensive, sector specific economic data.
- Encourage the development of forestry and other renewable resources in northern Alberta.
- Investigate and develop viable services and infrastructure in the north to support small business and secondary industry diversification and expansion.
- Partner with Northern Regional Economic Development Alliances (REDAs) to identify and promote small business development, tourism, manufacturing and processing opportunities in the north.
- Support potential value-added agriculture and opportunities for northern producers.



Goal four: Strong, Vibrant Communities

Strong, vibrant communities are essential to a strong northern Alberta. This goal recognizes the need to identify and increase the awareness of the key health (both individual and community) and human services priorities of northern Albertans, and work collaboratively to resolve these issues.

Key Strategies:

- Facilitate conversations between provincial and northern leadership to determine priorities, opportunities and strategies with respect to health care in northern Alberta.
- Support and advocate for sustainable solutions to address northern water and wastewater management challenges.
- In partnership with northern municipalities and regional economic development experts, advocate for transportation priorities in the north.
- Research and share community best practices and approaches to address socio-economic challenges during fluctuating economic cycles.
- Support northern communities in assessing the gaps and potential impacts of socio-economic development with respect to new social infrastructure and services.
- Deliver a one-stop shop for northern leaders to engage directly with government Ministers to discuss key priorities for the north.



Key Strategic Deliverables

In fulfilling Council's vision and mission to identify and implement sustainable measures that will advance northern development, several initiatives were undertaken during the past year.



Transportation and Infrastructure

Northern Transportation Advocacy Alliance (NTAA)

The NADC became a member of the NTAA in November 2015 and appointed a member of Council to join the Alliance. The Alliance is a newly formed partnership consisting of members from the Peace Region Economic Development Alliance, Regional Economic Development Initiative and several northern municipalities. It is focused on advocating for transportation initiatives that support the movement of northern goods, commodities and services.

Since joining the NTAA, Council and NADC staff have attended two meetings and provided administrative support services to the Alliance. In November 2015, the NADC provided support towards the completion of a Municipal and Regional Airport Financial Sustainability Study. The scope of the study will be national with regard to assessing solutions. The objectives of the study are to:

- Identify the fiscal and logistical challenges of rural airports now and in the future;
- Research rural airports that have proven successful or have sustained or reinitiated growth;
- Identify governance models for operation and capital investment;

- Identify funding models/alternatives/options to ensure the long-term sustainability of rural airports;
- Develop future scenarios for delivery of air medivac and fire suppression should rural airports close; and
- Provide recommendations to assist rural airports in planning for the future.

Northern Alberta Broadband Preparedness Project

Broadband (the speed by which data is transmitted over the Internet), is essential to supporting the potential for northern development and affecting northern residents, governments and businesses. Current broadband standard concerns in northern Alberta include service requirements and affordability, lack of existing infrastructure and the storage capacity to meet the growing demand.

The Council collaborated with Economic Development and Trade (Entrepreneurship and Regional Development Branch) and the northern REDAs on an initiative called the Northern Alberta Broadband Preparedness Project.

This project will develop an inventory of the current regional broadband ecosystem, including existing and planned broadband civil infrastructure, service footprints and service levels, related barriers towards economic growth, and requirements to support the emerging technology needs and demands. This assessment will be delivered for the NADC region and include individual sub-regions for northern Alberta REDAs.



Resource Management

Forestry Products Industry Profile

The NADC partnered with the Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA) to develop a report that provided an economic overview of the forestry sector and highlighted a number of case studies which illustrated progress in economic innovation and environmental sustainability.

The project supported initiatives to increase awareness, within and outside the region, of the economic value of the forestry sector and industry's ongoing efforts to be innovative and sustainable.

The report was distributed during AFPA's 2015 Annual General Meeting and Conference. Copies were forwarded to northern MLAs and key AFPA members. Another 200 copies were printed and distributed. The report was also made available online through the NADC website at www.nadc.ca.

A webinar of the profile report, delivered via Lync and teleconference, was delivered in February 2016 for representatives from northern municipalities, chambers of commerce and provincial government employees to share the report and stimulate dialogue on the importance of forestry to northern communities.

Agriculture - Northern Alberta's Flax Industry

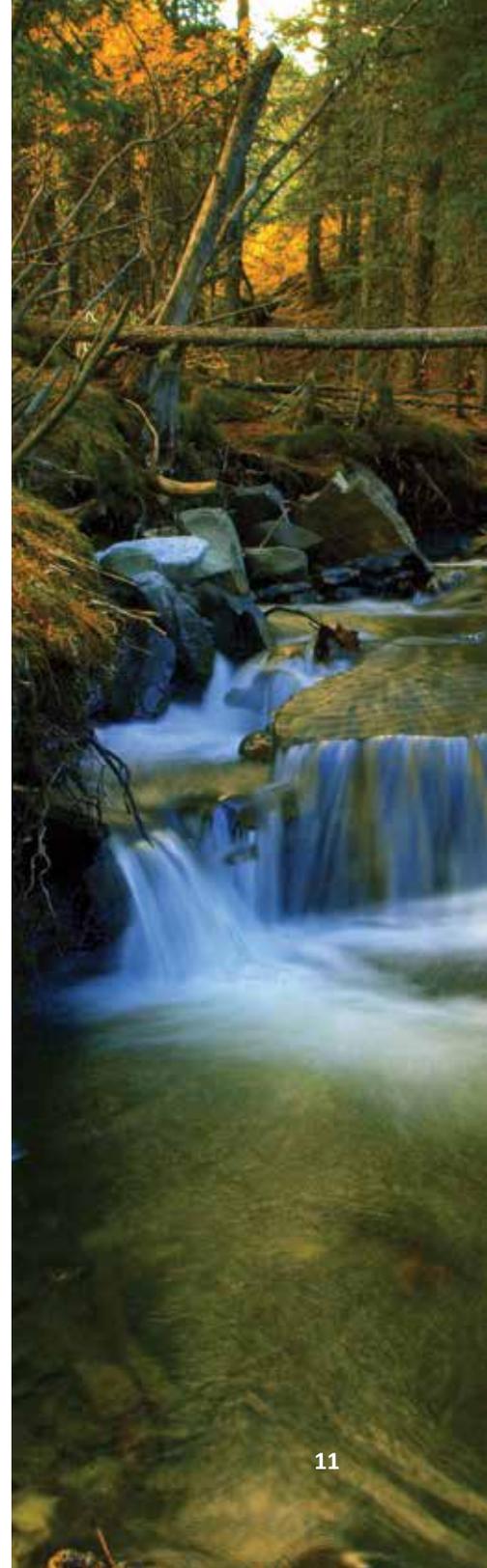
A partnership with the NADC, University of Alberta and Alberta Innovates Technology Futures (AITF) produced a research report, Development of Early Maturing Flax for Northern Grown Regions, published March 1, 2015 including the three-year field screenings and trials research findings. This report is available at www.nadc.ca.

NADC partnered with AITF to continue research into the development of early maturing flax for northern Alberta. The new research project will provide fundamental nutritional data for the northern Alberta and Canada flax industry, verify performance of selected elite flax lines developed for early maturity under northern prairies conditions, and initiate development of markets for northern Alberta's flax fibre and build the foundations for full utilization (grain and straw) of Alberta's bio-fiber potential.

Collaboration with NADC and AITF will take advantage of AITF's research and connection with the Chinese linen fabric industry to add value for Alberta's flax fiber and to address the concerns of flax growers with respect to straw management.

“Working together with NADC to profile our industry was valuable. The forest sector is an integral part of the north, and telling the story of positive partnerships between northern communities and the sector was beneficial.”

Paul Whittaker, President and Executive Officer, Alberta Forest Products Association



Woodlands Operations Learning Foundation (WOLF)

WOLF delivers online and classroom training, develops learning resources, and provides services and consultation to forestry sector educators, agencies and workforce.

Engagement with WOLF through attendance at meetings and support to the foundation enables the NADC to remain at the forefront of forestry sector education and changes in its workforce.

Water North Coalition (WNC)

Since its inception in fall 2014, the WNC has grown to include over 45 municipalities and water and wastewater partners across the north. Meeting four times annually throughout the north, the Coalition is working to ensure sustainable water and wastewater systems are available to every northern community.

In 2015, with the assistance of the NADC, the WNC finalized its three-year Strategic Plan confirming the Coalition's direction under four key areas: Advocacy, Recruitment and Retention, Public Education and Training. Subcommittees have been formed to advance key priorities identified under these four areas.

In support of the WNC, the NADC was pleased to participate in the Alberta Water and Wastewater Operators Association's (AWWOWA) annual Banff Seminar to share some learnings from the formation phase of this unique northern collaboration. The NADC will continue to provide support to this new initiative through knowledge sharing, capacity building and administrative support. Council will review outcomes in 2016 and determine future direction and support.

 *“Over the past year the NADC has been instrumental in helping the WNC (Water North Coalition) focus our direction. The NADC has assisted with resources and administrative support in forming of our committees so we can move ahead with our Strategic Plan. The NADC has provided organization and preparation for the WNC as we become established. As the Chair of WNC, I really appreciate the NADC's support because I believe we would not be where we are today without them.”* 

**Bob Marshall, Councillor, County of Grande Prairie Division 5
Chair for Water North Coalition (WNC)**



Development of a Skilled Workforce

Labour Education Applied Research North (LEARN)

Northern post-secondary institutions require labour force and economic information to help them identify new training programs and modify existing curriculum. LEARN is a joint initiative of the NADC and Grande Prairie Regional College, Keyano College, Portage College and Northern Lakes College. LEARN also serves as a forum for communication and cooperation between the partner institutions and enhances their capacity and shared understanding of northern post-secondary issues.

LEARN's current project, a communication strategy, will be completed June 2016. This strategy will provide guidance and best practices to LEARN partner institutions on the most effective path towards engaging internal and external stakeholders. LEARN was previously known as Northern Labour Market Information Clearinghouse. All past Clearinghouse reports are available at www.nadc.ca.

NADC Bursary Programs

NADC bursaries help to attract and retain the skilled professionals in demand by businesses and communities to support the growth and development of our northern region. Since 2000, the NADC has awarded 3,853 bursaries, and the program maintains a high return-service rate average of over 80 percent. Demand for skilled professionals in the north and for the bursaries far exceeds available funding.

In collaboration with the Student Aid Alberta office of Alberta Advanced Education, the NADC offered 255 return service bursaries to Alberta students for the 2015-2016 academic year. This number includes the NADC Bursaries, the higher-valued specialty bursaries, the Bursary Partnerships, the newly created First Nation (status or non-status), Metis and Inuit Bursary and the Northern Student Teacher Bursary, offered in collaboration with Alberta Education. Details on NADC bursaries can be found at www.benorth.ca.

2015/2016 at a glance

87	NADC Bursaries	1	Nurse Practitioner
10	Medical Bursaries	68	Bursary Partnerships
4	Pharmacy Bursaries	31	Teacher Bursaries
2	Veterinary Bursaries	52	First Nation, Métis or Inuit



NADC Bursary

The NADC Bursary focuses on students training in professions in high demand by northern employers. In 2015-2016, 246 Alberta students applied and 87 received NADC Bursaries:

- 81 received \$6,000
- 6 received \$3,000

Recipients were enrolled in a wide variety and types of education: 8 certificate programs, 31 diploma programs, 41 degree programs and 7 masters programs.

Higher valued NADC Bursaries for specialty programs

Certain programs in demand receive higher bursary values:

- 10 students received \$12,000 Medical and Dentistry Bursaries – 7 in Medicine and 3 in Dentistry
- 1 student received the \$9,000 Nurse Practitioner Bursary
- 4 students received the \$6,000 Pharmacy Bursary
- 2 students received the \$6,000 Large Animal Veterinary Bursary

2015/2016 NADC Bursaries

33 Health Care	7 Business Administration
12 Education	7 Agriculture/Environment
16 Social Services	1 Humanities
11 Engineering/Technical	

Educational Levels

8 Certificate
31 Diploma
41 Degree
7 Masters

NADC Bursary Partnerships

Bursary Partnerships are an excellent opportunity for businesses and community organizations to bring in the skilled professionals that fit their organization. In the program, sponsors provide the students they select between \$1,000 and \$3,000, and then apply to the NADC for matching bursary funds. Specialty bursaries allow for higher matching funds ranging from \$6,000 to \$12,000. Recipients are obligated to provide return service within the NADC region, based on one month of fulltime employment for every \$500 of total bursary support received to a maximum of 12 months return service per year of bursary support.

In 2015-2016, 68 partnership bursaries totalling \$264,500 were awarded, with \$130,250 provided through the NADC. Included in this year's ongoing sponsors was one municipal district that matched funds in the amount of \$12,000 each for one dentistry student, and four employers that matched funds of \$6,000 each for four pharmacy students. New sponsorships are accepted on an ongoing basis; potential sponsors can contact the NADC office.

First Nation (status or non-status), Métis and Inuit Bursary

This new bursary was launched on October 29, 2015 to assist in meeting the needs of Indigenous learners. Advanced Education provides the funding for the program, and the NADC selects the recipients and administers the program. This is a return service bursary. The bursary is \$6,000 for students in a Certificate or Diploma studies and \$10,000 for students in a Bachelors, Masters or PhD program. Students in one term of studies are eligible for half of the bursary amount depending on their program. Selection for this bursary was completed in December 2015 and January 2016. The NADC received 79 applications and funded 52 individuals. Three students received \$3,000 and two received \$5,000. Twenty students received \$6,000 in funding and 27 received \$10,000 for a total of \$409,000.

NADC Bursary Return Service Rate

Recipients of the NADC Bursary enter into an agreement to live and work in northern Alberta when they complete their education - one year of full-time work for each year of bursary support. The NADC follows up with each recipient. Students who do not fulfill their return service obligations repay their bursaries. Bursary repayments are used to fund additional bursaries to benefit students and northern employers.

“

“The NADC Bursary enabled me to attend university without having to worry about the high costs that come with obtaining an education. I am able to focus on my studies 100% without worrying about how I am going to pay for tuition, books and supplies. Due to my heavy course load I am unable to work during the academic year, thus the NADC bursary assisted me in continuing my education, and obtaining my degree.”

Brittani Cox, Bachelor of Science in Nursing student, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Bursary Recipient 2015 and 2016

”

Northern Student Teacher Bursary

Teacher attraction and retention in northern, rural and remote Alberta locations is a significant workforce challenge. Population projections for school-age children as well as teacher retirements show that the demand for teachers will only grow.

Alberta Education collaborates with Advanced Education and the NADC to offer the Northern Student Teacher Bursary (NSTB), which requires a return-service obligation from recipients. Superintendents of northern school jurisdictions participate in determining eligibility criteria and selection processes to ensure the most qualified applicants are awarded bursaries. In 2015-2016 applicants in their last or second-to-last year of schooling in a Bachelor of Education program were considered for the bursary. The focus was on education students who would be qualified to teach high in demand subjects such as math and science. There were 86 applications and 31 bursaries were awarded. Eleven of the recipients were entering their last year of schooling and were each awarded \$8,000. Twenty applicants were in their second-to-last year of schooling and were awarded \$16,000 each. The total expenditure for this program in 2015-2016 was \$328,800.

Northern Health Care Practicum Funding Program

The Northern Zone of Alberta Health Services administers the Health Care Practicum Funding Program, designed to increase the number of health-care practicum students in the north. Forty-seven students who completed a health care practicum in northern Alberta received a total of \$42,945 in funding from the NADC as reimbursement for travel and accommodation to designated locations and practicum positions.





Local and Regional Engagement

Northern Alberta Elected Leaders (NAEL)

NAEL offers a venue for northwestern municipal leaders to gather and share current practices and seek opportunities to collaborate. NAEL advocates for change on numerous issues of common interest in the northwest. Members of the group are located within the constituencies of Peace River, Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley, Grande Prairie-Wapiti, Grande Prairie-Smoky, West Yellowhead, and Lesser Slave Lake.

NAEL members met with the Honourable Danielle Larivee, Minister of Municipal Affairs in March 2016. Members raised several issues and committed to facilitating an annual meeting with the Minister to advance concerns of municipalities in the north.

Northern Development Ministers Forum (NDMF)

The NDMF was established in 2001 to advance the diverse and common interests of the people living in Canada's North, while raising awareness among decision-makers and the public about the accomplishments, contributions and potential of northerners.



"The work that the NADC does is very important. Hosting workshops and conferences as well as providing administrative support for regional meetings such as NAEL, advances our northern initiatives. NADC brings key stakeholders together to collaboratively come up with solutions to our challenges and to identify new opportunities to grow together."

Veronica Bliska, Reeve, Municipal District of Peace No. 135
Chair, Northern Alberta Elected Leaders

Canadian Ministers responsible for northern development met in Whitehorse, Yukon, June 24-26, 2015 to advance the potential of the north. Focusing on the theme "Build North", Ministers discussed several priority issues including managing change in northern resource economies, Impact Benefit Agreements and innovative solutions to longstanding northern development challenges. The 2016 meeting will focus on a revitalization of the Forum to ensure its sustainability and relevance in addressing priority issues, along with specific priority projects looking at northern food security, strengthening working relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal governments and the completion of Phase II of the Impact Benefit Agreement Research Project.

The NDMF undertakes projects based on priorities determined by the federal, provincial and territorial ministers of northern development. The NADC acts as Alberta's secretariat for the NDMF. The 2016 Forum will be hosted by the Government of Nunavut with the theme "Northern Development: A Land of Opportunities."



Community Best Practices for Economic Change in Northern Alberta

Resource economies are predisposed to cycles of boom and bust. Likewise, northern Alberta has experienced many periods of economic fluctuations which present opportunities and challenges that require both local ingenuity and resourcefulness to plan for, respond to, and manage.

In light of these historical trends as well as the recent economic downturn, the NADC completed a preliminary research project to determine the merits of a study to identify best practices for northern

communities to manage economic, and corresponding social changes. During the preliminary research phase, a sample of elected officials were interviewed to identify current local trends. Preliminary results will be shared with Council in 2016 to determine if a full scope study will benefit the north.

Innovation Opportunity Seminar

The NADC hosted an Innovation Opportunity Seminar titled “Driving Innovation in Northern Alberta” on February 3, 2016 in Athabasca, Alberta. This partnership with Alberta Innovates Technology Futures, GROWTH Alberta, Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance, and Alberta Hub was a key deliverable from a roundtable hosted by the NADC where northern REDAs identified innovation, capacity building and connectivity as priority issues for diversifying the economy and creating a more resilient future for the north.

The seminar aimed to build capacity, foster innovation and promote connectivity by providing information and resources related to market access and opportunities, small business supports and opportunities for growth through innovation.

This key networking opportunity was positively welcomed by northern businesses and municipalities and confirmed that the NADC is on the right track to implement meaningful initiatives to help support the economic development needs of the north. The NADC will consider hosting a second Innovation Opportunity Seminar in northwest Alberta.



Photo Contest Winners

Northern Alberta is a vast and beautiful region. The NADC conducts an annual “Capture the north” photo contest to showcase photos of northern Alberta; the ones that tell a story about the people who call the region home, give context to the places they live, the work they do and the natural beauty that surrounds them!

First and second place prizes were awarded in four photo categories: Working in the North; Scenes of the North; People in the North; and Wild North. The photos submitted to the photo contest can be found in Council reports and publications, as well as on our website and social media sites.

Category 1: Working the North – Northern Albertans at work in Forestry, Oil & Gas, Waterworks, Health Care & Agriculture.

1st Place – Long Day on the Land by Lynn Connell from Wanham, AB

2nd Place – Wildlife Biologist monitoring birds in the Oil Sands by Julie Dewilde from Fort McMurray, AB

Category 2: Scenes of the North – Photos of northern Alberta’s towns, cities, hamlets, villages and homesteads.

1st Place – Prevost Place by Lynn Connell from Wanham, AB

2nd Place – Going to Market by Laurie Sandboe from Laglace, AB

Category 3: People in the North –Activities such as camping, quadding, fishing, sledding, skiing whatever fun outdoor activities you can enjoy in northern Alberta.

1st Place – Wild Blue Yonder by Laurie Sandboe from Laglace, AB

2nd Place – Dogsledding in Fort Chip by Robin Dowden from Fort McMurray, AB

Category 4: Wild North – Wild animals, insects, flowers, plants and the natural landscapes where they live and grow.

1st Place – Playing fox and goose by Lynn Beaupre from Bonnyville, AB

2nd Place – Into the mist of the morning by Rob McKinley from Lac La Biche, AB

Category 1: Working the North



1st Place – Long Day on the Land
by Lynn Connell from Wanham, AB



2nd Place – Wildlife Biologist
monitoring birds in the Oil Sands
by Julie Dewilde from Fort McMurray,
AB

Category 2: Scenes of the North



1st Place – Prevost Place by Lynn
Connell from Wanham, AB



2nd Place – Going to Market by
Laurie Sandboe from Laglace, AB

Category 3: People in the North



1st Place – Wild Blue Yonder by
Laurie Sandboe from Laglace, AB

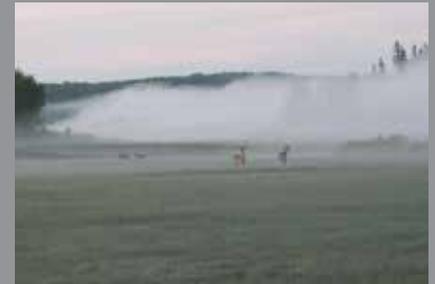


2nd Place – Dogsledding in Fort
Chip by Robin Dowden from Fort
McMurray, AB

Category 4: Wild North



1st Place – Playing fox and goose by
Lynn Beaupre from Bonnyville, AB



2nd Place – Into the mist of the
morning by Rob McKinley from Lac
La Biche, AB

Appendix A: Council Biographies



**Williard Strebchuck, Vice Chair
Whitecourt**

Williard is an active community member with more than 19 years municipal government experience, including former Mayor of Whitecourt and town councillor. He is a member of local boards, agencies and committees in support of economic and community development including a town and county joint Economic Development and Tourism Committee, and the Whitecourt Economic Development Committee, on both of which he sits as chair. He has had past experience on the Strategic Tourism Marketing Council and as the Director of the West Central Tourism Association. Williard was born and raised in the Peace Country; he grew up on a farm, which contributed to his working knowledge of agriculture, forestry and the oil industries. He started in the service industry running a family business in High Prairie in 1976, and moved to Whitecourt with a family business opportunity in 1986. Williard is a current business owner in Whitecourt with a variety of business interests throughout northern Alberta.



**Brian Allen
Grimshaw**

Brian is the Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Grimshaw and was Mayor of Grimshaw from 2000 to 2013. He is the past owner/operator of Grimshaw Super A Foods. He has extensive experience in local government and with a number of regional organizations.



**Peter Braun
La Crete**

Peter has lived in La Crete his entire life and has been a Mackenzie County Councillor since 2004. He is active in a number of community organizations, including the Regional Economic Development Initiative, the La Crete Co-op Board and the La Crete Recreation Society. His past work experience includes a total of 20 years as a petroleum agent and manager, first with the La Crete Co-op and then with the United Farmers of Alberta; and 18 years as an owner-operator, first of an automotive parts store and then of a mobile home park and apartment rentals.



**Andre Harpe
Valhalla Centre**

Andre has a strong background in agriculture and in the oilfield sectors. He has experience with several governance boards such as STARS, Peace Country Health, Mistahia Health Region and Grande Prairie Regional College. He is an avid volunteer within his community and region. Andre is chair and has been co-chair with the Valhalla School Foundation, which created a charter school based in Valhalla community.



**Ken Noskey
Peavine**

Ken is the former Chairman of the Peavine Métis Settlement and he also served for 9 years as the president of

the Metis Settlements General Council; he has been elected 12 times over 27 years. Ken has participated in overseas Canada and Alberta trade missions, presented to the Senate on Aboriginal governance and presented to the Royal Aboriginal Commission. He has been a member on a number of provincial government advisory committees. He is the owner/operator of a trucking and skid steer services company, and has experience in the forestry and logging industry. He farms livestock such as horses and cows and produces hay for his livestock. He is also an active volunteer within his community, and an avid runner.



**Pat O'Neill
St. Paul**

Pat has experience as a municipal Councillor and significant experience in the agricultural and recreational sectors.

He worked with the St. Paul Municipal Seed Cleaning Plant as director and chairman of the board. He is the

former director of the Alberta Development Corporation Appeal Board and was instrumental in developing the St. Paul Breeders Co-op.



**Brad Sakowich
Athabasca**

Brad is a valued member of the business community in the Athabasca region, having spent a number of years in the oilfield service industry. He also spent two years as the Chief Executive Officer of Alberta's Best W-T Group. Prior to that, he worked for more than ten years with Alberta Treasury Branches in various capacities. He holds a diploma in agri-business from the Lakeland College in Vermilion, as well as a certificate in environmental resource management from the U of A.



**Jason Schulz
Fort McMurray**

Jason has lived in the Fort McMurray area since 2006. During his residence he has been active in the community through the Board of Directors for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Alberta and through Child and Family Services Alberta. He was also a member of

the Wood Buffalo Real Estate and Zoning Development Appeals Board. Jason has considerable experience working with diverse groups.



**Eva Urlacher
Cold Lake**

Eva is the first recipient of a newly created Woman of Influence –

Volunteerism award (2013). She has background as a business owner and as a director for the Rural Alberta Development Fund. She served as Reeve of the MD of Bonnyville, Director of the Cold Lake and District Chamber of Commerce, and she currently serves as Director of the Cold Lake and District Agricultural Society. She participates on many community boards and foundations such as Hearts for Healthcare, Hospital Foundation, Medical Development and Kinsoo Performing Arts. Eva is an avid volunteer with a sincere interest in her community and region.



Appendix B: Council Members Representing the North

April 2015

- Economic Developers Alberta conference in Kananaskis
- Community visits in Manning with Town of Manning and County of Northern Lights representatives

May 2015

- Industry visits in La Crete with La Crete Chamber of Commerce, Knelsen Company and the Fort Vermilion Board of Trade representatives
- Athabasca Oil Sands Area Transportation Coordination Committee meeting in Fort McMurray

June 2015

- Northern Alberta Community Advisory Board meeting in Whitecourt
- Bursary Selection Committee meeting in Edmonton
- 55 North Conference in Grande Prairie
- Northeast Alberta HUB meeting in St. Paul
- Community visits in High Level with Town of High Level, Town of Rainbow Lake, Mackenzie County and Community Futures Northwest Region representatives
- Athabasca Oil Sands Area Transportation Coordination Committee meeting in Grande Prairie

September 2015

- Regional Economic Development Alliance Roundtable in Slave Lake
- 'Let's Talk Royalties' Luncheon in Grande Prairie
- Alberta Urban Municipalities Association convention in Calgary
- Northeast Alberta HUB meeting in Cold Lake
- Portage College Food Sciences Centre Grand Opening in St. Paul
- Northern Alberta Knowledge Exchange: Human Trafficking, Sex Industry, Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls in Lac La Biche
- Alberta Forest Products Association conference in Jasper
- Labour Education Applied Research North meeting in Calgary
- Networking Luncheon with Alberta Transportation in Fort McMurray

October 2015

- Travel Alberta Conference in Banff
- 2015 Economic Developers Alberta Ministry Roundtable
- Alberta Forest Products Association event in Edmonton
- Athabasca Oil Sands Area Transportation Coordination Committee meeting in Fort McMurray
- Stakeholder Roundtable on Job Skills, Training and Labour in Fort McMurray

November 2015

- Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties convention in Edmonton
- Synergy conference in Calgary
- Athabasca Oil Sands Area Transportation Coordination Committee meeting in Edmonton

January 2016

- Athabasca Oil Sands Area Transportation Coordination Committee meeting in Fort McMurray

February 2016

- Fort McMurray Construction Association Future Projects Summit in Fort McMurray
- Growing the North conference in Grande Prairie
- Northern Transportation Advocacy Alliance meeting in Grande Prairie
- Growing Rural Tourism conference in Camrose
- Driving Innovation in Northern Alberta seminar in Athabasca
- Alberta Association of Agriculture Societies meeting in Edmonton

March 2016

- Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties Spring Convention in Edmonton
- Northern Transportation Advocacy Alliance meeting in Edmonton
- Provincial Transit Strategy session in Edmonton

Communications

The NADC uses many methods to communicate projects and initiatives to our stakeholders, including the NADC website and social media (Facebook and Twitter).



@NADCca

Tweeted 115 times in the 2015/16 fiscal year

17% increase in followers to 930 in the 2015/16 fiscal year

69% increase in impressions (# times tweets were seen) to nearly 65,000 for all tweets in the 2015/16 fiscal year



Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC)

22% increase in likes in the 2015/16 fiscal year



All reports and detailed information about the NADC are available on the NADC website (www.nadc.ca)





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