

The background of the cover features a circular frame containing a photograph of a forest at night. The trees are silhouetted against a dark sky with a vibrant green aurora borealis. The text is overlaid on this scene. A large, semi-transparent yellow circle is positioned on the right side of the page, partially overlapping the circular frame.

**Northern Alberta  
Development Council**

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

**Annual Report  
2014 - 2015**





## contents

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Message from the Vice-Chair	2
Overview of the Northern Alberta Development Council	3
The Council's Vision, Mission and Values	4
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Issues Critical to the North: Infrastructure, Workforce and Services	6
Priority Issues: Transportation and Infrastructure	8
Priority Issues: Resource Management	10
Priority Issues: Health and Social Services	11
Priority Issues: Development of a Skilled Workforce	12
Priority Issues: Local and Regional Engagement	18
The Winning Photos from the Contest	20
Looking Ahead	21
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Appendix A: Council Biographies	22
Appendix B: Council Members in the Communities	24

*Many photographs in this report were selected from amongst the excellent submissions in NADC's photo contest*

## message from the **VICE CHAIR**



As vice-chair of the Northern Alberta Development Council, I am pleased to share the highlights of the year covering April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

The Council remains committed to being the eyes and the ears of Alberta's north and a meaningful contributor to the development of government programs and policies. The Council has continued to champion the cause of Alberta's northern economies and communities. It continues to build partnerships among key stakeholders and leaders, and it continues its success in establishing priorities for growth and development.

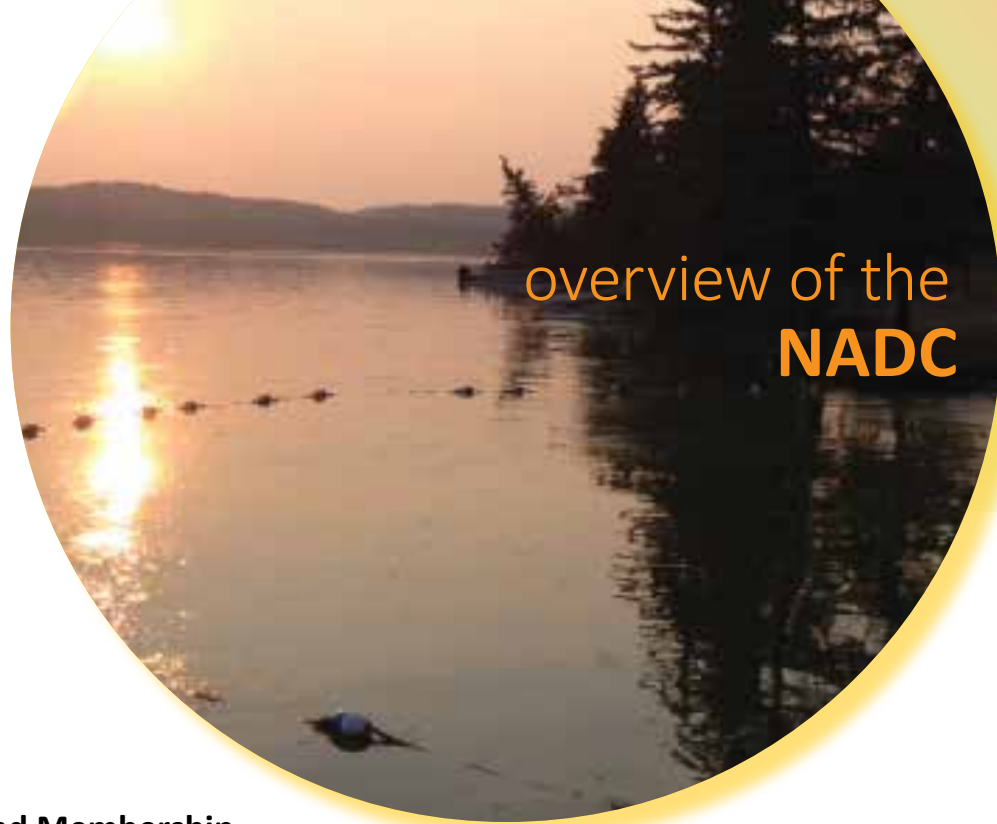
This annual report reinforces that key issues such as transportation, resource management, workforce development, and health care remain a focus for the Council.

Although this year has been challenging with the price of oil falling, major development projects in the north have continued- albeit some at a slower pace. We, in the north, are still discerning the significance of this slow-down and the Council will continue to monitor its impacts on northern communities in the year ahead.

Thank you to all those who have provided support to the Council during the past year, including the department staff in Aboriginal Relations and the many individuals, communities and organizations across the north who have welcomed and hosted our Council members. As vice-chair, I am humbled to serve on the Northern Alberta Development Council with a group of fellow northern Albertans so engaged, knowledgeable and committed to our vision of a stronger Alberta through a stronger north.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Strebchuk'.

Williard Strebchuk  
Vice-Chair  
NADC Member, Whitecourt



# overview of the NADC

## The Council Mandate and Membership

The Northern Alberta Development Council (“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 Aboriginal Relations. Its mandate 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 nine members of the Council reflect the geographical, 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
Pearl Calahasen, MLA	Lesser Slave Lake	April 2014 – October 2014
Everett McDonald, MLA	Grande Prairie – Smoky	October 2014 – April 2015

### COUNCIL

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



## the Council's VISION, MISSION & VALUES

### Vision

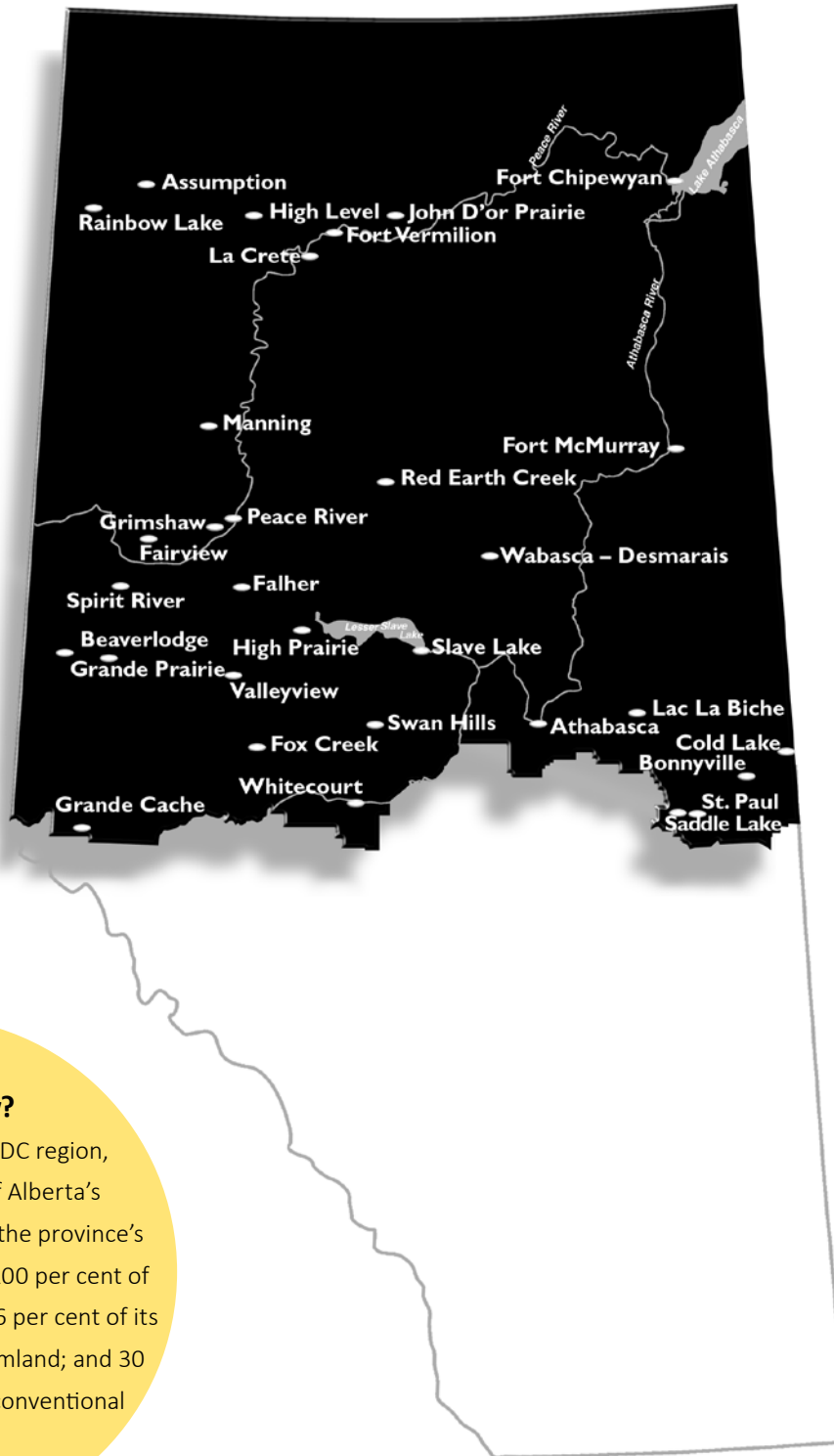
- **A vision for northern Alberta**  
*A stronger Alberta through a stronger north.*
- **A vision for the Northern Alberta Development Council**  
*Northern Albertans' trusted advisor.*

### Mission

- The NADC's mission is to identify and implement sustainable measures that will advance northern development and advise government on opportunities and issues for the benefit of Albertans.

### Values

- **Balanced** - We work to maintain the fine balance between promoting economic development and preserving quality of life.
- **Collaborative** - We understand that true success can only be achieved by working together.
- **Dynamic** - We strive to meet the diverse needs of northern Albertans in an ever changing social and economic climate.
- **Evolving** - We value the many new people and new ideas that are shaping the future of our region, while honouring the Aboriginal communities and pioneers that established our region's strong foundation.
- **Focused** - We keep the needs of northern Albertans at the centre of all decision-making.
- **Inclusive** - We work to ensure that all opinions and knowledge are considered so that the strength that exists in the collective voice of northern Albertans is sustained and enriched by the diversity of perspectives.
- **Respectful** - We work to create an environment that ensures the opinions of all northern Albertans can be expressed in an open, respectful manner.



**Did you know?**

Northern Alberta, the NADC region, comprises 60 per cent of Alberta's landmass and 10 per cent of the province's total population. It contains 100 per cent of Alberta's oil sands deposits; 86 per cent of its forests; 28 per cent of its farmland; and 30 per cent of the province's conventional oil and gas<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Nichols Applied Management. "Contribution of the NADC Region to the Alberta and Canadian Economies". June 2012.



## issues critical to the north: **INFRASTRUCTURE, WORKFORCE AND SERVICES**

The Northern Alberta Development Council is committed to supporting actions in support of the north, its people and its economy. Through summits, workshops, face-to-face meetings, town halls and other events, the Council gains an understanding of the critical issues facing northern Albertans. During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, in addition to NADC's administrative meetings, members and staff met with community leaders and organizations throughout the NADC region. As a result of these stakeholder engagement initiatives, a number of local and regional issues were brought forward.

Key topics raised across the region included:

- Recruitment and retention across all sectors
- Housing
- Upgrades for infrastructure and transportation networks
- Supports for addictions and mental health
- Northern tourism
- Changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program
- Workforce planning and forecasting
- Better industry and Municipal Collaboration
- Building sustainable communities

In its strategic planning sessions, the Council utilized this information, along with independent and collaborative research, to establish clear objectives for advancing Alberta's north.





Throughout the year, the Council focused on a number of priority issues such as transportation and infrastructure, resource management, health and social services, workforce development and local and regional engagement. Each of these critical areas supported the Council's overall goals of achieving:

### **Robust, Diversified Economy**

- To establish an integrated transportation strategy and encourage the development of government programs and policies that support diversification

### **Skilled and Educated Workforce**

- To attract and retain skilled professionals, establish training programs to address the 'skills gap' and increase the percentage of under-represented populations in the local workforce

### **Strong, Vibrant Communities**

- To establish effective regional partnerships to address health and human service priorities and promote regional collaboration to support regional priorities





priority issues  
**TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Northern Transportation Roundtables**

Elected representatives from across northern Alberta who attended the Northern Leaders' Summit on March 14, 2014 identified transportation and infrastructure as the region's highest priority, well above health care, workforce development, and education. Northern leaders were particularly concerned with the maintenance and repair of existing infrastructure, the impacts of increasing industrial traffic in the region, and the need for new infrastructure to improve accessibility and alleviate pressure in high traffic areas.

The Council followed up on this Summit by holding three regional transportation workshops with elected leaders in June 2014: St. Paul (northeast); Slave Lake (north central); and Peace River (northwest). Participants were asked to identify both their local and regional priorities and concerns relating to road, rail, air and utility infrastructure. A summary report was drafted and sent to northern MLAs and the Minister of Transportation.

### **Transportation Options for Seniors**

The NADC co-facilitates the Developing Transportation Strategies for Seniors (DTSS) Committee with the Alberta Motor Association (AMA). The group meets to share information, develop educational materials, and explore partnerships for transportation for seniors.

This past year several member communities have surveyed and mapped seniors in their communities. These results have led to proposed changes to regional transportation options for seniors. Committee members have also participated/volunteered in AMA-hosted activities such as the launch of the CarFit Pilot Project in Grande Prairie.



### **Northern Alberta Shipper's Survey**

NADC surveyed northern shippers to determine the current state of shipping in the north and to identify challenges facing producers. The survey revealed the need for an efficient and effective rail system which is critical for the grain, energy and forestry industries to thrive in Alberta's north. The shippers' survey underscored the notion that local shippers believe the demand for rail service far exceeds the availability and supply of rail service.

The findings and recommendations from this study were brought to the Council for further consideration and a summary of the identified issues was forwarded to Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development to be considered as part of Alberta's submission to Canada's Transportation Act review.

### **East-West Connector**

Following the 2013-2014 NADC report that included an analysis of the economic, social and environmental impacts of building a transportation and utility corridor between Fort McMurray and Peace River, the Council has continued to engage, inform and educate both Government and northern stakeholders on the importance of such a corridor.

The east-west transportation link is paramount to the future economic prosperity in the north, and as such, the Council prepared and delivered a comprehensive presentation to share back to potentially impacted stakeholders and communities. The Northern Alberta Development Council remains connected with regional transportation officials from the Government of Alberta to highlight this priority.

#### **Did you know?**

Grande Prairie is the last Alberta stop on the 'North to Alaska' Trail.

## priority issues

# RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### **Water North Coalition (WNC)**

Across northern Alberta, municipalities are wrestling with the future of water and wastewater management as an aging workforce and deteriorating infrastructure critically challenge their ability to provide a sustainable supply of quality water. To address these challenges, the Council supported a diverse group of northern community leaders and water/wastewater partners in their efforts to form the Water North Coalition (WNC). The newly formed coalition officially adopted a *Terms of Reference* in December 2014 and hosted the first of four annual meetings in February 2015 in Slave Lake. One of the first priorities that members of the new WNC identified was a need to undertake a needs assessment for their coalition. With the assistance of the Council, the WNC will undertake a needs assessment of the northern region to inform their next steps. The WNC will be supported administratively by the Council for a period of one year, after which time Council will review and make a recommendation about future support.

### **Agriculture**

In 2008, the Council partnered with Branding the Peace Country Association and Alberta Research Council (now known as Alberta Innovates) to conduct preliminary chemical analysis on several types of mature flax seeds.<sup>7</sup> They were believed to have superior chemical compositions compared to crops grown in southern regions. This research identified that northern flax seed had superior Omega 3 content. Research was then undertaken to develop early maturing strains with high Omega 3 content that were suitable for the north.

After three years of field screenings and trials, the research team from Alberta Innovates and the University of Alberta identified some promising early maturing flax lines to provide breeding material for northern Alberta regions. Pending additional support, the next step is a full scale trial in the Peace region before final evaluation. Some forecasts anticipate that the potential cash value of new flax seed strains would be equal to or higher than northern canola. This would provide another high value crop to add to rotations for good crop management.

<sup>7</sup> The report was completed in 2009 and distributed on NADC's website: <http://www.nadc.ca/Docs/ARC-Flax.pdf>



priority issues  
**HEALTH AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **Health Care Student Visitations Pilot Project with University of Alberta**

Communities in northern Alberta are continuously working to recruit and retain health care professionals. The University of Alberta recognizes their challenges and approached the Council to facilitate a pilot project for their students with northern communities.

The faculties of Medicine and Dentistry, Pharmacy and Nursing exposed small groups of students to opportunities in the towns of Grande Cache and Athabasca. In return, students provided valuable feedback to communities on how they might appeal to new health care professionals. The input was collected using an adapted version of the FICE (First Impressions Community Exchange) survey, originally administered through the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association. The students feedback has helped communities better position themselves to profile their attributes to potential recruits in attraction activities.

### **Children in Care Research Project**

At the Northern Leaders' Summit, community leaders raised their concern with children in care and the child intervention system with the Minister of Human Services. To better understand the complex issues and concerns surrounding children in care, the Council initiated a research project from a northern Alberta perspective. The intent of this research is to identify unique challenges faced by northern families, communities and service providers, and to provide information and recommendations to the department of Human Services.

# priority issues

## DEVELOPMENT OF A SKILLED WORKFORCE

### **Bursary Programs**

Bursaries help to attract and retain the skilled professionals required by businesses and communities. Since 2000, the Council has awarded 3,584 bursaries. The bursary programs have a high return-service rate of 77 percent. Demand for skilled professionals in the north and demand for bursaries far exceed available funding.

In collaboration with the Alberta Scholarship Programs office of Alberta Innovation and Advanced Education, the Council offered 212 return service bursaries to Alberta students this fiscal year. This number includes the NADC Bursary, the specialty bursaries consisting of : Medical/Dentistry Bursary, Nurse Practitioner Bursary, Pharmacy Bursary and Veterinary Bursary, the Bursary Partnerships, and the Northern Student Teacher Bursary offered in collaboration with Alberta Education. Details on bursaries can be found at [www.benorth.ca](http://www.benorth.ca).

### **NADC Bursaries**

The NADC Bursary focuses on students training in professions determined to be in demand by northern employers. In 2014-2015, 264 Alberta students applied, and 94 received NADC Bursaries:

- 87 bursaries valued at \$6,000
- 7 valued at \$3,000

Recipients were enrolled in a wide variety of programs and types of education: 5 certificate programs, 42 diploma programs, 39 degree programs, 7 masters programs and 1 PhD program.

### **Bursaries for Specialty Programs**

Special bursaries have been created to meet high demand career areas:

- 10 students received \$12,000 medical and dentistry bursaries – 6 in medicine and 4 in dentistry
- 5 students received the \$6,000 pharmacy bursary
- 3 students received the \$6,000 large animal veterinary bursary



### **Bursary Partnerships Program**

The Bursary Partnerships program is 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 Council 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 of return service.

In 2014-2015, 74 partnership bursaries totalling \$266,450 were awarded, with \$132,600 provided through the Council. Included in this year's ongoing sponsors were two community organizations that matched funds in the amount of \$12,000 each for two dentistry students, and two employers that matched funds of \$6,000 each for two pharmacy students. New sponsorships are accepted on an ongoing basis; potential sponsors can contact the Council for more information.

### **Northern Student Teacher Bursaries**

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 continue to grow.

Alberta Education collaborates with Alberta Scholarship Programs and the Council 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. Those considered in 2014-2015 were in their last or second-to-last year of schooling in a Bachelor of Education program, primarily those qualified to teach high demand subjects such as math and sciences. There were 80 applications, and 25 bursaries were awarded. Nine of the recipients were entering their last year of post-secondary education and were each awarded \$8,000. Sixteen were in their second-to-last year and were awarded \$16,000 each. The total expenditure for this program in 2014-2015 was \$328,000.



### **Northern Health Care Practicum Funding**

The North Zone of Alberta Health Services (AHS) administers the Health Care Practicum Funding Program, designed to increase the number of health-care practicum students in the north. The exposure of practicum students to the NADC region helps raise awareness of northern health career opportunities and provides students a chance to experience living and working in their chosen career field in the region.

This year, 41 students were provided a total of \$41, 694 funding allotments to complete a health care practicum in northern Alberta in high demand health careers identified by AHS. Fourteen northern communities benefited from having these students complete their practicums in their community.

### **Addictions in the Workplace Conference**

Northwestern Alberta is experiencing increased cases of workplace addictions. Alberta Health Services Addictions and Mental Health partnered with the Council to host a one-day conference titled “Work hard play hard...at what cost” on January 23, 2015. The Conference was designed to support the local workforce, community and economy by addressing the issue of addictions in the workplace. Approximately 120 delegates attended, including local and regional employers from a wide array of sectors. Dr. Charles Els provided information about the addictions in the workplace; the impact on employees/family and the company bottom line. Alberta Health Services shared resources available in the region and how to address issues of substance abuse on the job. NADC will continue to work with AHS to address substance abuse and mental health in the workplace.





### **Workforce Scan**

The Council's Professional Workforce Scan evaluates trends in the workforce to identify the specific academic credentials employers are searching for and which programs are in high demand. It highlights challenges and opportunities for various sectors across northern Alberta. In 2014-2015, the survey was made more user-friendly and the survey pool was expanded which led to a more definitive understanding of the types of jobs or study programs employers were seeking. This information helps in the selection of recipients for the bursary programs, and provides valuable information to post secondary education training instructors about employees' needs.

### **College Presidents Meeting**

Presidents from six northern colleges met with the Council on December 11, 2014 in a second annual meeting to discuss post-secondary education in the north. The presidents updated the Council on the recently signed Memorandum of Actions (MOA) and current issues facing their northern institutions. Funding for Aboriginal students, curriculum sharing, capital investment, and allocation of seats were discussed. The need to further recognize the economic differences between regions in allocating funding and seats in specific programs, particularly trades, was also raised, along with challenges with faculty recruitment retention in rural and remote communities. The NADC will continue to work with the College presidents to address northern post-secondary education needs and priorities.



### **Northern Labour Market Information Clearinghouse**

Northern post-secondary institutions require labour force and economic information to help them identify new training programs and modify existing curriculum. The Northern Labour Market Information Clearinghouse, a joint initiative of the Council and Grande Prairie Regional College, Keyano College, Portage College and Northern Lakes College serves as a forum for communication and cooperation between the partner institutions and enhances their shared understanding of northern post-secondary issues. The Clearinghouse's most recent report, Supports for Mature Students, identified recommended supports and impacts for mature students, a significant demographic identified by the colleges. The research identified best practices from other northern Canadian institutions and collected student input on missing programs or supports needed. The Clearinghouse will share the information within their institutions and with other partners who can take action on the recommendations. All past Clearinghouse reports are available on NADC's website at [www.nadc.gov.ab.ca](http://www.nadc.gov.ab.ca).

### **Salary and Wages of Trades in the North**

The Council completed an analysis of wages for select trades in northern Alberta. It included a sector by sector breakdown, identified top wages in each sector, and wages according to regions. The key findings in the analysis revealed that there is discrepancy between eastern and western Alberta wages, along with industry differences in wages for select trades, which may account for the unemployment rates in different regions of Alberta. Council will continue to monitor wages in the north as the information may be significant when considering strategies to address workforce issues in northern Alberta.



### **Woodlands Operations Learning Foundation (WOLF) and Conference**

The Woodlands Operations Learning Foundation (WOLF) offers online and classroom training for the forestry sector workforce. Engagement with WOLF enables the NADC to remain at the forefront of forestry sector education and changes in its workforce.

To enhance this relationship, NADC is participating in the WOLF conference planning committee to support the hosting of their 2015 conference: Driving Change in the Forest. The conference, set for May 28-29, 2015 will showcase presentations, demonstrations and discussions on the drivers of change in forest resource development; including regulation and legislation, human resources, technological innovation and applied research.

### **“Our Story” Tipi Village Education Program**

The Council, Sagitawa Native Friendship Society, and Daishowa-Marubeni International (DMI) partnered to promote Aboriginal awareness by hosting a National Aboriginal Day celebration and four-day Aboriginal education program in June 2014. Over 1,000 students from Grades 1 through 8 visited the Tipi Village. Each tipi hosted an Aboriginal Elder or Aboriginal educator who shared stories and teachings about the Aboriginal worldview, Aboriginal tradition and Aboriginal-Canadian history. Open to the public in the evenings, the Tipi Village featured local Aboriginal entertainment and instructional craft-making sessions.

priority issues

## LOCAL & 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.

Grimshaw, April 2014

- Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services presented on primary health care
- The members toured the Mile Zero regional multiplex

Mackenzie County – La Crete, July 2014

- Council staff presented on the east-west corridor
- The members toured La Crete Heritage Centre

City and County of Grande Prairie, December 2014

- Minister of Transportation, and MLA Grande Prairie Smoky, discussed priority areas regarding transportation, municipal affairs and health services
- Alberta Health Services presented on the North Zone
- Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities presented on brownfield lots and Green Municipal Fund



### **Northern Development Ministers Forum (NDMF)**

The Northern Development Ministers Forum (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 Forum provides federal, provincial and territorial ministers representing Canada's North an opportunity to advance common interests and raise awareness of northern issues. Member jurisdictions of NDMF include the governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario, Québec, Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as the Government of Canada.

The NDMF undertakes projects based on priorities determined by the federal, provincial and territorial ministers of northern development. In this past year this included: Benefit Agreements (Phase II), Managing Change from Industrial Development, and Innovating Development in northern regions. The Council acts as Alberta's secretariat for the NDMF.

The 2014 NDMF in Whitehorse was postponed, but will take place in June 2015.



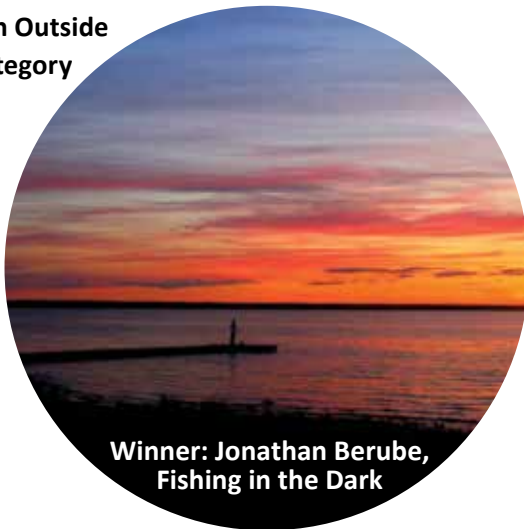
# The winning photos from **THE CONTEST**

## “Capture the North” Photo Contest 2014

The photo contest is a fun way for the Council to keep in touch and interact with people around the north region as well as capture the spectacular beauty of our region and people. First and second place prizes were awarded in four photo categories; Northern Community, Working in the North, Wild North and Fun Outside. 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.

- Northern Alberta Development Council website: <http://www.nadc.ca/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northern-Alberta-Development-Council-NADC/101026993320888>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/nadcca>

**Fun Outside  
Category**



**Winner: Jonathan Berube,  
Fishing in the Dark**

**Working the  
North Category**



**Winner: Tara Lowry,  
Rounding up the Herd**

**Northern Community  
Category**



**Winner: Lynn Beaupre,  
Burning Bush**

**Wild North  
Category**



**Winner:  
Tara Lowry,  
Chicken Hawk**



## looking AHEAD

With new members and support staff, the Council has new energy and a revitalized resolve to work with communities and partners and to enhance the sound advice and recommendations they provide to Government that will foster and advance social and economic development in the north.

As the Council looks ahead there will be new relationships to forge, existing networks to nurture and partnerships to establish that will help address the unique needs of northern communities. Through outreach and community engagement the Northern Alberta Development Council will be flexible and responsive in identifying critical priorities, and will continue to strive for excellence in achieving measurable and productive outcomes.

The Council will bring forward new opportunities in the form of seminars, conference partnerships and research that will provide valuable information and networking for communities, industry and government in the north. The Council will encourage their professional support staff to find new ways to engage within government and work with cross-ministry partners for the benefit of all Albertans.

Above all, the Council will remain a pillar of strength and credibility, ready to advocate on behalf of northern Albertans.

## 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 he has experience with a number of regional organizations.

### **Peter Braun**

#### **La Crete**

Peter has lived in La Crete his entire life and he 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 Metis Settlement and he also served for nine 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 he has experience in the forestry and logging industry. Ken has been married for 33 years, has 5 children and 11 grandchildren. 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 Kinosoo Performing Arts. Eva is an avid volunteer with a sincere interest in her community and region.

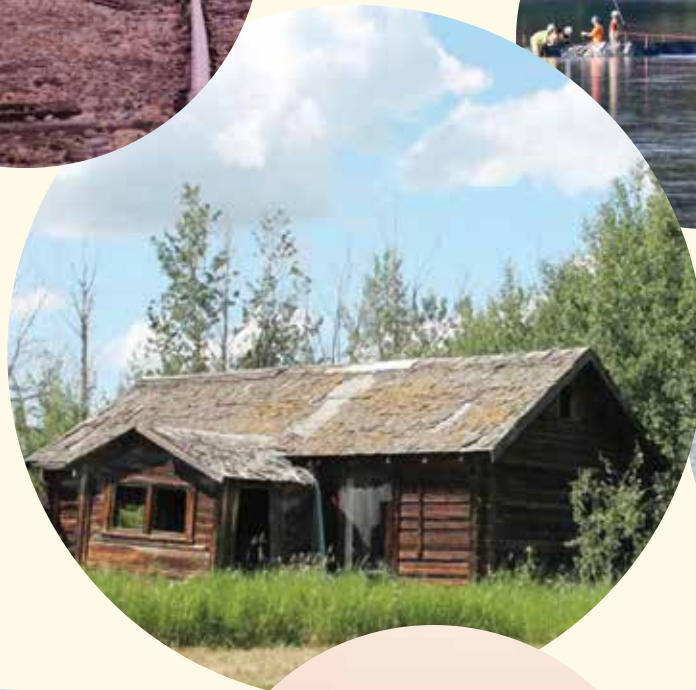


*NADC Chair and Council, left to right:  
Everett McDonald, Jason Schulz,  
Andre Harpe, Williard Strebchuck,  
Brian Allen, Eva Urlacher, Ken Noskey,  
Peter Braun, Pat O'Neill.  
Missing: Brad Sakowich*

## appendix B: COUNCIL MEMBERS IN NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

To fulfill its mission as northern Alberta’s advisor to government, Council members engaged with communities and industry at various events over the past year:

Date	Community Engagement / Events
<b>April 2014</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family and Community Engagement session in Grande Prairie.</li> <li>• Economic Developers Association meeting in Kananaskis.</li> <li>• Rural Economic Development Plan session in Vermilion.</li> <li>• Community visits with the Town of High Prairie, Town of Slave Lake and M.D. of Big Lakes.</li> </ul>
<b>May 2014</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NADC Transportation Roundtable in St. Paul.</li> <li>• Regional Collaboration Meeting in High Prairie.</li> <li>• Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance Meeting in High Prairie.</li> <li>• Leading the North Conference in Fort McMurray (two members).</li> </ul>
<b>June 2014</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NADC Transportation Roundtable in Peace River (two members).</li> <li>• Transportation Roundtable in Slave Lake.</li> <li>• Regional Collaboration Meeting in High Prairie.</li> <li>• Reconciliation Workshop in Fort McMurray.</li> </ul>
<b>August 2014</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philip J. Currie Dino Ball in Grande Prairie.</li> <li>• Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties Zone 4 meeting in Northern Sunrise County.</li> </ul>
<b>September 2014</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pacific North West Economic Region in Whistler, B.C.</li> <li>• Community visits with Woodland County, Town of Valleyview, Town of Whitecourt and Town of Fox Creek.</li> <li>• Alberta Urban Municipalities Association convention in Edmonton.</li> </ul>
<b>October 2014</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community visits with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, the Fort McMurray Public School Division, the Oil Sands Community Alliance, Fort McMurray Catholic School Division, Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce, and the Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association.</li> <li>• Athabasca Oil Sands Area transportation coordinating committee meeting in Fort McMurray.</li> </ul>
<b>November 2014</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties convention in Edmonton.</li> <li>• Community visit with the M.D. of Greenview.</li> <li>• Alberta Synergy conference in Enoch.</li> <li>• Athabasca Oil Sands Area transportation coordinating committee meeting in Fort McMurray.</li> </ul>
<b>February 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing the North Conference in Grande Prairie.</li> </ul>
<b>March 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Alberta Community Physician Attraction and Retention Conference in Edmonton.</li> <li>• Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties Spring convention in Edmonton.</li> </ul>



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