



Message from the Chair, Debbie Jabbour, MLA for Peace River

As Chair of the NADC, I am thrilled to share in this newsletter some of the great work that Council and staff have been doing in the last four months.

In January, Council met with the Minister of Transportation, Hon. Brian Mason, to discuss the importance of strong networks for the region and, specifically, the merits of a Transportation and Utility Corridor linking Fort McMurray and Peace River.

We hosted a roundtable discussion with northern MLAs where the issues discussed included: tourism development, transportation corridors and market access, recruitment and retention of health professionals, and impacts of species at risk legislation. A roundtable discussion with northern college presidents was valuable in understanding emerging issues facing students and post-secondary training providers in the region. Both roundtables will be advanced on an annual basis moving forward, continuing our strong tradition of collaboration and engagement between Council and key leaders in the north.

We wrapped up the fiscal year with two Opportunity Seminars on the emerging Bio-Fibre Food Industry and Alternative Energies. Both were well attended and provided valuable learning and networking opportunities with experts in the field.

I was pleased in March to meet with our Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Hon. Sarah Hoffman, to discuss next steps related to the Northern Health Summit and ways NADC can support communities to improve health care delivery.

Our recent recruitment campaign for new members has closed, and we look forward to the appointment of new members to continue the strong tradition of support that the Council brings to developing the northern region.

I encourage you to reach out to our Council if there are new developments in your northern communities.

Industrial HEMP & FLAX A Growing Northern Alberta Opportunity!

The growing bio fiber-food industry has captured the attention of national and international investors and offers unique growth opportunities for northern Alberta's agricultural market. Many industries are looking for new growers and partners to support the increasing market demands for flax and industrial hemp. The NADC hosted approximately 140 delegates at two Industrial Hemp and Flax Opportunities Seminars in St.Paul (March 30) and Whitecourt (April 4).

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NORTHERN HEALTH SUMMIT

Northern Health Summit and Continued Collaboration in the NADC Region

by Honourable Sarah Hoffman, Deputy Premier & Minister of Health
I grew up in Kinuso, between Slave Lake and High Prairie, and I experienced first-hand the advantages and challenges of life in northern Alberta.

As Minister of Health, I make sure to spend time in the north and listen to the nurses, paramedics, physicians, and many other healthcare professionals serving their communities.

Last year's Northern Health Summit provided a unique opportunity for northern Alberta communities to share and discuss perspectives on health priorities and service delivery models for the northern region with representatives from Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services. I recently met with the Northern Alberta Development Council to discuss their recommendations and hear an update on their activities since the summit. In the coming weeks, NADC will consult with Alberta Health to prepare an update for northern leaders on the summit's outcomes and progress.

I thank the NADC for its commitment to the north and our province. Alberta Health will continue to learn from many communities and organizations, including NADC, about the unique needs and challenges of the region and how to continue to support Albertans in the north. I look forward to continuing these collaborative efforts to address the health care needs of our northern municipalities and indigenous communities. This government is committed to providing strong and stable public healthcare that Alberta families can rely on.



NORTHLAND SCHOOL DIVISION NO.61

A series of community engagements occurred throughout 2015 to 2017 with community stakeholders in the Northland School Division (NSD) to discuss governance and potential amendments to the Northland School Division Act. The NADC was approached to provide support related to the engagement of northern communities in the advancement of community consultations related to the Northlands School Division.

Council is pleased to see several of their recommendations advanced in the latest announcement by the Minister of Education, the Honourable David Eggen with respect to the new structure of NSD. For example, Council's recommendation that "the new Northland School Division Board of Trustees implement a 'consultation strategy' that allows each community/school to elect or appoint an official representative to provide regular input to the Board on issues specific to their local community/school."

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Seminar partners included Alberta Economic Development and Trade, InnoTech Alberta, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, several northern Regional Economic Development Alliances and Conseil de développement économique de l'Alberta. Thank you to the seminar partners along with St. Paul Portage College, Alberta Apparel and Hempco for contributing towards these events.

Stay tuned on our website www.nadc.ca for details in our seminar proceedings report, including a complete presentation slide deck and electronic education toolkit.

Energizing the North

Join us! Seminar on **alternative and renewable energies**

Geothermal | Solar | Wind | Bioenergy



Geothermal, solar, biomass, and wind energy have the potential to transform northern Alberta communities through innovation, economic diversification, and energy independence. To move renewable energy production forward in the north, the NADC hosted two seminars attracting 115 total delegates in Athabasca (March 28) and in Peace River (March 30).

The seminars showcased experts in each energy technology, successful community projects, growing business opportunities, various funding programs, and the development of cooperatives. The Alberta Community & Cooperatives Association (ACCA) prepared a Community Energy Co-operative Toolkit and provided an overview of the potential for energy cooperatives.

A detailed seminar proceedings report, including all presentations and the ACCA toolkit will be made available on our website www.nadc.ca in the coming weeks.

The new structure is an important step in supporting our northern students achieve their full potential and ensuring that moving forward, communities will have a mechanism to provide input into decisions regarding education in their local communities. [Click here](#) or [the image above](#) to read about Bill 6 and how it will positively impact Albertan families in NSD.



Staff Changes

In January of 2017, we welcomed Nicole Inzunza in the Fort McMurray office to cover a maternity leave.

In February of 2017, we welcomed Susan Shave into a permanent management position in the Fort McMurray office.

In April of 2017, we had to say farewell to Audrey DeWit, a long time NADC employee, who has retired from the Peace River office. We wish her well in the future!



The Northern Alberta Development Council has **updated our website** with a brand new look and improved functionality. This new look with enhanced features and functions provides quick and easy access to great information, projects, and partnership initiatives. Check out the short videos highlighting our Council and our initiatives, searchable reports, and up-to-date information on our most recent events. Our website will also be the new home for all of our bursary programs. We invite you to explore the new content for yourself at www.nadc.ca or by [clicking the image above](#). Meet the Council, answer our latest survey question, view the stunning pictures that won our most recent photo contest, and much more!



The NADC is on Social Media! Follow us for the latest on our news, events, research, and more.



Check out our video highlighting the **Water North Coalition (WNC)** and its initiatives by [clicking the image above](#). Members of the WNC currently represent over 50 municipalities, and water and wastewater organizations across the north. The WNC meet to exchange information, hear from experts, discuss common challenges, and collaborate on solutions for water and wastewater management.

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AWARDS, BURSARIES & 2017
SCHOLARSHIPS

The NADC administers return service bursaries to attract and retain skilled professionals in demand to support the growth and development of our region.

During the 2016/17 fiscal year:

- \$621,000 was awarded towards the NADC bursaries (including medical, pharmacy, veterinary and nurse practitioner programs);
- \$376,000 was awarded towards the Northern Student Teacher Bursary;
- \$494,000 was awarded towards the FNMI bursary; and
- \$247,400 was awarded towards the Bursary Partnerships program (\$120,450 NADC portion and \$126,950 from sponsors that include northern employers or community organizations).

The First Nation, Metis, and Inuit Bursary applications are **due July 5th**. [Click the image above](#) or go to our website to find out more.