



An e-newsletter from Northern Alberta Development Council sharing key updates on NADC advocacy, initiatives, and engagements.

[Share Online](#)

## Message from the Chair

Much has happened with NADC since our last newsletter. Council has had the privilege of engaging in both the northwest and northeast since January and has been actively involved in many issues including caribou range planning, the role of broadband in our digital future, access to health services, and ongoing advocacy for the north and the importance of the northern perspective in program and policy development.

As Chair of the NADC and MLA for Peace River, I was privileged to join our government caribou delegation to Ottawa in May. Led by the Hon. Shannon Phillips, Minister of Environment and Parks, and supported by representatives from our northern industries and communities, the delegation secured Ottawa's promise to provide funding to support Alberta's caribou range planning and a commitment by the Hon. Catherine McKenna to continue working with Alberta as we develop a 'made in Alberta' plan that fully understands the social and economic impacts of achieving caribou recovery.

Council looks forward to continuing to work with northern communities on issues that impact economic development. In addition, we support initiatives such as Northern Alberta Elected Leaders (NAEL), Water North Coalition (WNC) and Labour Education Applied Research North (LEARN). Please visit our [website](#) for more information on these important northern priorities.

NADC has had a change in executive support with current Executive Director Janis Simpkins taking a secondment within the ministry of Economic Development and Trade (EDT) for the next year. Tom Mansfield, Executive Director for Entrepreneurship and Regional Development within EDT, will now also oversee the NADC, and brings a wealth of experience in economic development and working with regional stakeholders across the province. I thank Janis for her leadership in supporting NADC members fulfill our mandate to provide valuable advice to government on the needs and potential of the north. We wish her much success in her new role

Debbie Jabbour, Chair  
MLA for Peace River

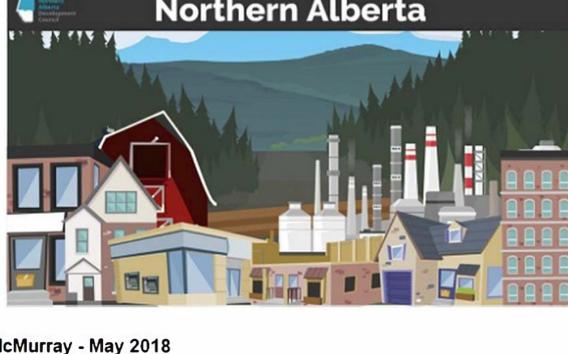
## Council Meeting Updates



### Grande Prairie - February 2018

Council members met in Grande Prairie on February 20 prior to attending the Growing the North economic development conference.

The members hosted regional Economic Development Officers (EDO) and NW Elected Officials at a lunch roundtable in conjunction with the EDO Roundtable hosted by the Regional Development branch of Economic Development and Trade. An introduction of new NADC members through an [animated video on the NADC](#) was shared along with insights from community representatives on local development projects. Council met with Birth Matters for Peace Parents (BMPP), a local maternity care consumer group actively working to address challenges in accessing midwifery services in the region, and Spinal Cord Injury Alberta regarding transportation and other supports required for persons with spinal injuries or physical disabilities. The development of a Provincial Broadband Strategy and impacts of the draft Caribou Range Plans, both poised to significantly impact the north, were also discussed.



### Fort McMurray - May 2018

Council members met on May 2 and 3 in Fort McMurray, coinciding with the two year anniversary of the Horse River wildfire. Members met with Mayor Don Scott and Council members from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) to get an update on rebuilding efforts and the growth in the region. The NADC appreciated insights into local health issues, new capital projects and emerging transportation corridors of interest to the region. RMWB Council has expressed an interest to engage on a regular basis with the NADC, in order to work collaboratively to build our northern region.

Matt Vickers of G7G spoke on the proposed north to Alaska railway, Dr. Neil Fassina of Athabasca University (AU) on global access to digital education as it relates to AU's new strategic direction, and Craig Dobson of Taylor Warwick Consultants spoke on community readiness in broadband development in the north. An opportunity to participate in a Blanket Exercise led by Julia McDougall and Cheryl Devin of the Alberta Teachers Association (ATA) provided members with a moving educational experience on Indigenous history.

## Caribou Conservation Efforts



L-R: Paul Whittaker, Minister Phillips, Jason Ruecker, Debbie Jabbour, Ryder McRitchie, Crystal McAtter, Brian McConkey, Eric Jorgensen, Bob Kerr, Wendy Crosina and Jennifer Ezekiel (standing in for Richard Dunn). Photo source: [GoA](#)

Northern Alberta delegation to Ottawa May 3, 2018 - requesting more money and time to meet the mandated requirements for caribou herd restoration. Read the Government of Alberta's [press release](#) for all the details.

## The Northern Alberta Broadband Preparedness Project

NADC continues to work with partners across the region on broadband. The final report of the Northern Alberta Broadband Preparedness Project revealed that only eight per cent of northern Alberta communities in the study region meet the current Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) objectives related to upload and downloads speeds. NADC and project partners the northern Alberta Regional Economic Development Alliances have now concluded the final seminars, sharing regional specific data from the study. We are encouraged to see new initiatives developing across the NADC region. NADC will continue to actively monitor and advocate for northern Alberta connectivity and our digital future.

The Northern Alberta [Broadband Preparedness Project](#) report is available on the NADC website.

## Capture the North!

2018 Photo Contest

For eight years the NADC has been hosting "Capture the North," a photo contest designed to showcase our region's rich geography, wildlife, and people at work and play in their communities. This year for the first time, we launched a Winter/Spring campaign with new categories: People at Work; Culture, Events, and History; Northern Family, Community Life, and Recreation; and Amazing North.

Northerners entered over 50 photos! We look forward to sharing these amazing pictures in our reports and publications over the coming year. To check out all of the 2018 Capture the North winners visit our [website](#) and check back for details on our next Photo Contest set to launch in late Summer, 2018!



## Reports and Partnerships

### Labour Education Applied Research North (LEARN)

LEARN, a collaboration between the NADC and four northern Alberta colleges, commissioned a report on the delivery, access, and preferences for Digital Educational Resources (DERs) in northern Alberta post-secondary institutions. DERs are technologies that provide students enhanced control over the time, place, and pace of their learning. The report highlights a number of best practices for consideration.

As technology evolves at an ever-increasing rate, post-secondary institutions must strive to remain up-to-date and continually adjust and prepare to meet future workforce needs. DERs are increasingly being used in post-secondary institutions to increase access to higher education and provide a better learning experience.

The [Digital Education Resources in Northern Alberta Research Report](#) is available on the NADC website.

### Economic Developers Alberta Conference

NADC attended the 2018 Economic Developers Alberta (EDA) annual conference and participated in a breakout session entitled "Government Resources for Economic Developers: Stories from Across the Province." Panelists included presenters from various branches of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade.

The NADC focused on Council's role in linking social and economic development in region and the need to approach northern priorities and projects through this holistic lens. Recent reports, including the Economic Area Profile, Workforce Scan, and Northern Alberta Broadband Preparedness Project were shared. The NADC Bursary program and its importance in growing the workforce in the north was highlighted along with the personal story of a previous bursary recipient who is now living and working in the north.

### Bursary Update

The selection process for the NADC and Specialty Bursaries will take place in early July, 2018 and all applicants can expect a decision later that month.

The selection committee will be meeting in early August to assess the applications for the FNMI Bursary and applicants should expect to hear by late August. Please note, if you missed the June 1, 2018 deadline for application to the FNMI Bursary program, the next deadline is November 30, so get your applications in! Please visit our [website](#) for details on the bursaries.

## Upcoming Meetings in 2018

Meeting	Date, Location
<p>The Northern Alberta Elected Leaders (NAEL) is a consortium of municipalities, First Nations and Métis Settlements located within the northwestern boundaries of the NADC region. The NADC is the secretariat for the NAEL, providing them strategic supports.</p>	July 13, Valleyview
<p>Agenda to include: BEAST technology for water treatment, Biological Filtration and Reverse Osmosis Systems and new opportunities for wastewater lagoons. Click <a href="#">here</a> for information on meetings.</p>	July 19, Cold Lake
<p>As part of the NADC Northern Leaders' Summit Series, this event facilitates discussion between provincial and northern leadership to determine northern priorities and opportunities.</p>	September 12, Slave Lake

## About the NADC

The Northern Alberta Development Council 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 the Government of Alberta.

## Stay Connected

To keep up to date on all of the latest NADC news, events and activities like and to follow us on Facebook and Twitter! For more information about the NADC or the region please visit our [website](#), or e-mail us at [nadc.council@gov.ab.ca](mailto:nadc.council@gov.ab.ca).



**NADC**  
206 Building  
9621-96 Avenue,  
Postal Bag 900-14  
Peace River, Alberta  
T8S 1T4 Canada  
780-624-6274

**Executive Director**  
Tom Mansfield  
[Tom.Mansfield@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Tom.Mansfield@gov.ab.ca)  
780-427-6483