



2018



Northern
Alberta
Development
Council

Annual Report

Northern Alberta Development Council

Contents

Message from the Vice Chair	2
NADC at a Glance	3
Vision, Mission, Goals, and Key Strategies	4
NADC Goals	5
Current State of the NADC Region	9
Research	10
Collaborative Partnerships and Initiatives	13
Local and Regional Engagements	20
Health Care Practicum	26
NADC Bursary Programs	27
NADC Communications	31
Appendices	33

Message from the Vice Chair



On behalf of the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC), I am pleased to present the 2018-19 Annual Report. This report outlines our activities and accomplishments from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

I am proud to report on the success of the Northern Leaders' Summit that saw over 150 leaders representing our urban, rural and Indigenous communities come together to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the social and economic development of the north and provide local perspectives and solutions. Joining our northern leaders was former Premier Rachel Notley and eight Cabinet Ministers representing the ministries of Agriculture and Forestry, Children's Services/Status of Women, Economic Development and Trade, Education, Energy, Environment and Parks, Municipal Affairs and Indigenous Relations. I encourage you to read the Proceedings Report, which outlines some key actions and recommendations for the north.

We will be using the feedback from our northern leaders and information gathered through our many engagements to continue facilitating robust communication between northern residents and government. We are working towards a skilled and educated local workforce, strong vibrant communities, and a prosperous, entrepreneurial, and diversified economy that includes opportunities and growth for our northern urban, rural, and remote residents.

In alignment with these goals, the NADC has continued to work with partners across the region this past year,

to improve quality of life and access to services through partnerships and research aimed at:

- improving broadband, a service impacting growth and development across all sectors;
- health services, including mental health and midwifery care;
- improved access to education and training through improved digital resources and practices to support future learners; and
- improved access to municipal services including water and wastewater management.

We will continue to support northern communities as they consider new opportunities to diversify their economies through exploratory research into alternative energy sources, such as geothermal. We also continue to work with leaders in traditional sectors by supporting research and education around promising agricultural production and agronomy, forestry production, and energy development. We will continue to work with northern municipalities to advocate for the necessary infrastructure to support this growth, and with our new government to identify and support initiatives that make the north investment ready, grow our tourism potential, and promote innovative practices that will advance our region.

Through continued collaborations with local organizations, communities, industry, and our partners across northern Canada, we will advance a stronger Alberta, through a stronger north.

Ken Noskey

Vice Chair

NADC at a Glance

► Overview

The NADC is a provincial government agency that investigates northern Alberta's social and economic development priorities, programs, and services to ensure supports meet the needs of northern residents. The Council provides advice and recommendations to ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and ministries.

The Council has been in operation for 56 years and is accountable to the Minister of Economic Development and Trade.¹

► Mandate

The NADC's mandate, as stated in the *Northern Alberta Development Council Act* (S.A. 1963, c.41), 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 also make recommendations related to:

- social and economic development;
- development of communities and service delivery; and
- development of government services and programs.

► Governance

The NADC is made up of 10 members with one appointed as Chair. The Chair is traditionally a member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. Council membership reflects the geographic, cultural, and vocational diversity of northern communities.

DID YOU KNOW...

The NADC was one of the recommendations from the 1958 Report of the Royal Commission on the Development of Northern Alberta.² The report focused on the current and potential development of northern Alberta with regard to population trends, the extent, location, and market trends of natural resources, electrical power, transportation and communication requirements, and industrial and agricultural opportunities.² The first Chair appointed to the NADC was Ira McLaughlin (1963-1966)³. Considered 'The winningest MLA', McLaughlin served as an MLA for 27 years from 1944 – 1971.

¹ *The department name in 2018-19 was Economic Development and Trade. In Spring 2019, the department name was changed to Economic Development, Trade and Tourism.*

² *MacGregor, J.G. (1958). Report of the Royal Commission on the Development of Northern Alberta. <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/e699b94f-40b4-4afc-ac9c-5156f9661f4d/resource/f51d1671-29c8-41d6-8ac4-d79b90c9904b/download/1958-royal-commission-nadc-without-large-map.pdf>*

³ *Provincial Archives of Alberta (2006). An Administrative History of the Government of Alberta 1905-2005. <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/4ed54c63-8f0d-49b9-b83e-34b0c177952e/resource/1c436497-eb04-469b-948b-7b13e73ceca0/download/administrative-history-of-government-of-alberta.pdf>*

Vision, Mission, Goals, and Key Strategies

► Vision

A stronger Alberta through a stronger north.

► Mission

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

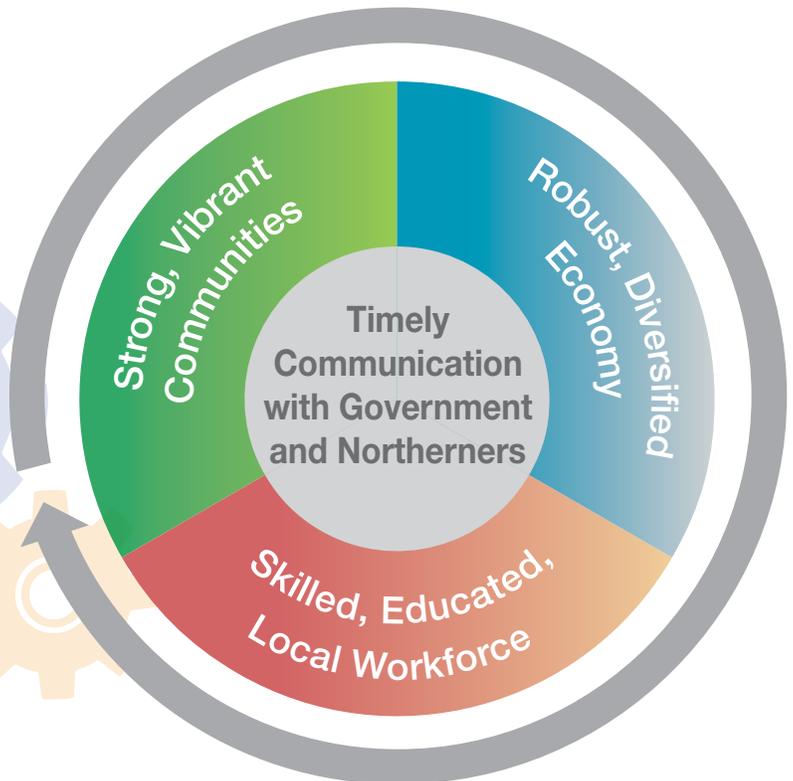
► Key Strategies

- Build partnerships among key stakeholders to establish priorities and pursue northern opportunities.
- Foster economic strength and diversity by supporting development in transportation, value-added agriculture, tourism, health, and other areas.
- Support initiatives to increase northern skill levels, in partnership with northern communities, business, industry, learning providers and students.
- Increase awareness about northern Alberta's employment and lifestyle opportunities.

Goals and Outcomes

Core Approaches

1. Engage
2. Research
3. Partner
4. Promote
5. Advocate



NADC Goals

► Timely Communication with Government and Northerners

The NADC is committed to building and leveraging relationships and partnerships with other economic development agencies, industry associations, communities, and all levels of government in order to strategically and consistently promote development in northern Alberta.

To ensure the work of the Council is relevant and timely, the NADC has a communications strategy that uses a diversified set of communication tools and mediums to connect with northerners, and with the Government of Alberta. Through targeted engagements, the NADC communicates internally with government officials and key northern stakeholders. NADC staff work internally to build connections with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade's¹ senior leadership and advance the business of the NADC through representation on cross-jurisdictional and cross-ministry committees. Council works through the Chair and Minister of Economic Development and Trade¹ to advance its work throughout the region and advocate on its behalf with other levels of government.

Key Strategies:

- Build the Council's knowledge and timely understanding of the gaps, issues, and opportunities related to industry and community development through collaborative cross-ministry initiatives to equip the Council to advocate for, and inform government of, emerging issues, trends, and northern priorities.
- Support northern residents and communities in accessing essential services, training, and business development opportunities.
- Encourage dialogue between northern Alberta residents, businesses, industry, municipalities, First Nations, and Métis communities to advance opportunities for growth and new business ventures.
- Partner with other jurisdictions to explore and advance coordinated approaches for the development and promotion of the north's potential.

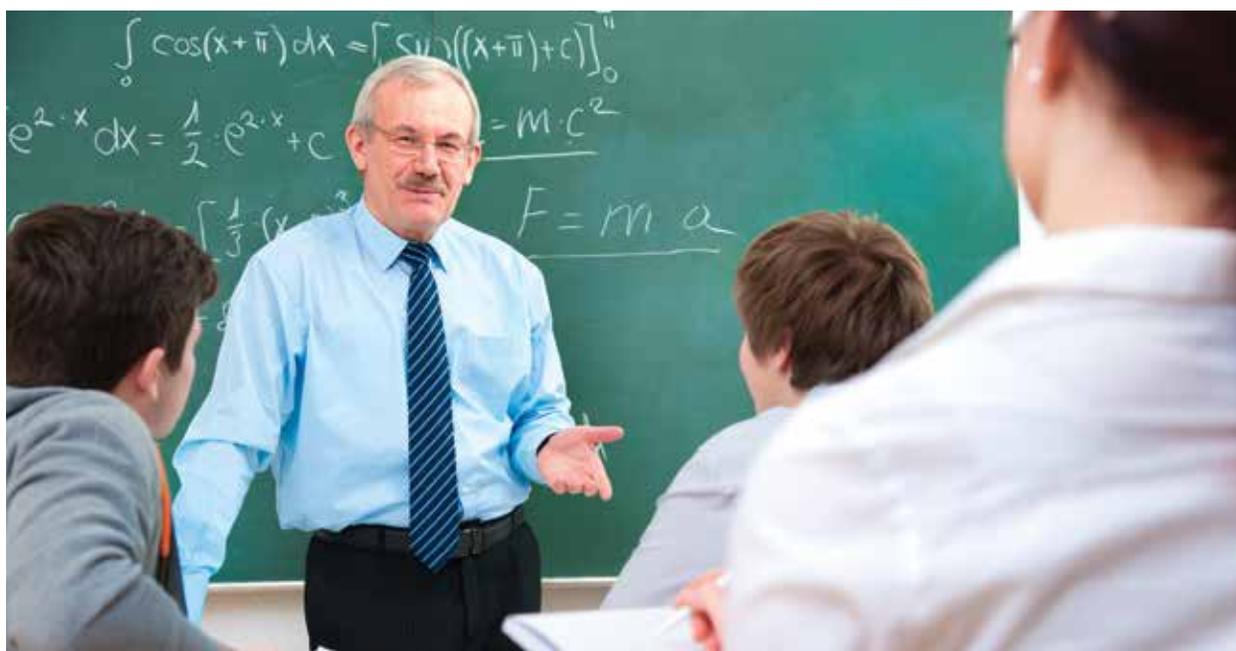
¹ The department name in 2018-19 was Economic Development and Trade. In spring 2019, the department name was changed to Economic Development, Trade and Tourism

► Skilled, Educated, Local Workforce

The NADC recognizes the need to continue to attract, develop, and retain a skilled workforce in northern Alberta. To support the northern economy, the labour force must address the identified needs of northern communities and the requirements of industries operating in the region. The provision of specialized, local training options, and the inclusion of underrepresented populations is essential in ensuring residents fully participate in the region's growth and development.

Key Strategies:

- Work with partners in government and agencies to fund initiatives that attract and retain skilled professionals, while enhancing supports for training and workforce participation of First Nations, 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.
- Align bursary funding and programming to reflect current education and employment trends in the region.
- Increase the retention potential of northern professionals through promotion of northern career opportunities and engage northern business and industry in policy development that addresses recruitment to high demand/difficult to recruit careers.



► Robust, Diversified Economy

The NADC works to ensure economic policies and programs support a sustainable and more diversified northern economy. The resilience of northern communities in the face of volatile resource prices and limited economic diversification relies upon progressing work in areas of need such as transportation networks, access to markets, and infrastructure.

This goal seeks to foster economic strength and diversity by supporting development of transportation corridors, value-added agriculture, tourism, health, and other key sectors.

Key Strategies:

- Research and deliver expert information on key social and economic development opportunities in the north.
- Build and develop relationships with northern municipalities and Indigenous communities to ensure timely access to information on local priorities and issues.
- Build on existing data to enhance access to appropriate regional information through user-friendly mediums that the Council and northern businesses, industry, and municipalities can use to efficiently identify and advocate for required programs and initiatives.

- In partnership with northern communities and regional economic development experts, advocate for transportation and infrastructure required to enhance the north's connectivity and access new markets.
- Encourage sustainable development in traditional industries as well as explore renewable resources and energy in northern Alberta.
- Partner with northern Regional Economic Development Alliances to identify challenges and opportunities to support future growth.
- Support potential value-added agriculture and unique opportunities for northern producers.



► Strong, Vibrant Communities

Strong and vibrant communities are essential for a strong northern Alberta and require both physical and social infrastructure to be sustainable. The NADC recognizes the need for both individual and community health, including the importance of working collaboratively to continually improve human services delivery within the region. Promoting northern Alberta's employment and lifestyle opportunities is also a vital component in efforts to attract the necessary skilled workers to the region.

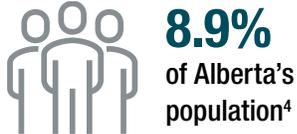
Key Strategies:

- Facilitate conversations between provincial and northern leaders to determine priorities, opportunities, and strategies with respect to essential services in northern Alberta.
- Support and advocate for sustainable solutions to address northern water and wastewater management challenges.
- Research and share economic and innovation-related best practices to support capacity building, investment attraction, and solutions to socio-economic challenges.
- Establish effective regional partnerships and provide linkages and information to support sustainable growth and diversification.
- Foster strategic relationships with Indigenous communities and leaders to support shared social and economic outcomes.



Current State of the NADC Region

► Population



► Resources

- Oil sands lie beneath 142,200 square km of land in Athabasca, Cold Lake, and Peace River. Alberta's oil sands have the third largest oil reserves in the world (165.4 billion bbl), after Venezuela and Saudi Arabia.⁷
- 18.1% of Alberta's farms (declined from 19.3% in 2017-18)⁸
- The largest Forest Management Agreement (FMA) is 58,120 square km located in northeastern Alberta¹⁰

⁴ 2016 Census GeoSuite <https://geosuite.statcan.gc.ca/geosuite/en/index>

⁵ Alberta Municipal Affairs <https://www.alberta.ca/municipal-affairs.aspx>

⁶ Indigenous Services Canada <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada.html>

⁷ Alberta Energy <https://www.alberta.ca/oil-sands-facts-and-statistics.aspx>

⁸ Alberta Agriculture Statistics Yearbook, 2017 (excludes farms in areas within Smoky Lake that is part of the NADC area) <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/da3573a5-465c-4dc1-8793-36e9dc02b775/resource/13883472-6b75-4e9f-8ee4-1a5ffa12803a/download/agriculture-statistics-year-book-2017.pdf>

⁹ Alberta Indigenous Relations <https://www.alberta.ca/indigenous-relations.aspx>

¹⁰ Alberta Agriculture and Forestry <https://www.alberta.ca/forest-management-agreements.aspx>



Research

► Northern Broadband

The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) declared access to broadband internet a basic telecommunications service in 2016. The Northern Alberta Broadband Preparedness Project, completed in 2017, indicated that only 8 per cent of northern communities included in the study region met the current CRTC objectives related to upload and download speeds.

In May 2018, Craig Dobson of Taylor Warwick Consulting, and author of the Northern Alberta Broadband Preparedness study, delivered a presentation to the NADC in Fort McMurray. The presentation summarized the existing state of broadband, the desired state of broadband, and business case options for northern Alberta communities. Council discussed the report and the recommendations identified with respect to developing broadband services in the north.

In 2018, the NADC advocated for more broadband connectivity in northern Alberta communities:

- Met with then-Ministers of Service Alberta, Economic Development and Trade, and Municipal Affairs to discuss the need for northerners to access high-speed internet for business, education, and personal uses. Following the October 2018 meeting, the NADC provided additional written advice to government related to the negative impacts of inadequate broadband in rural, remote, and northern communities.

- Delivered the presentation, Digital Education Resources in Northern Alberta, at the Digital Futures Symposium in Vermilion in October 2018. The presentation focused on the relevance of broadband to education.
- Contributed to a priority project titled Growing the Digital Economy for the federal-provincial-territorial Northern Development Ministers Forum. This report outlined the importance of information and communications technology to communities, institutions, economic activity, e-health, and the delivery of e-learning in northern Alberta communities. It also referenced the proposed Alberta Broadband Strategy and cited engagement efforts with municipalities, Indigenous communities, small businesses, and telecommunications and internet service providers to learn how future policy can reflect the needs and interests of northerners.
- Hosted the Northern Leaders' Summit in Slave Lake in December 2018. This event provided northern leaders a chance to voice their concerns about various topics to Ministers. Northern leaders consistently identified broadband as a necessity and cross-ministry issue.

► Northern Flax

The processing of flax fiber has the potential to contribute to economic diversification in northern Alberta, contributing to the NADC goal of supporting a robust diversified economy. Innotech Alberta completed a report that describes selected lines and varieties of northern adapted flax and provides information on full utilization of Alberta's flax fiber. The NADC released this report in November 2018. Key findings and recommendations indicate that:

- northern Alberta has favourable growing conditions for flax;
- there is interest from textile manufacturers in sourcing Alberta-grown flax fiber for linen production; and
- efforts of relevant stakeholders should be coordinated in order to develop flax as a viable food and fiber crop.

To support the development of a diversified agricultural economy in the north, the NADC will continue to encourage conversations on the benefits and potential of northern-grown flax.



► Geothermal

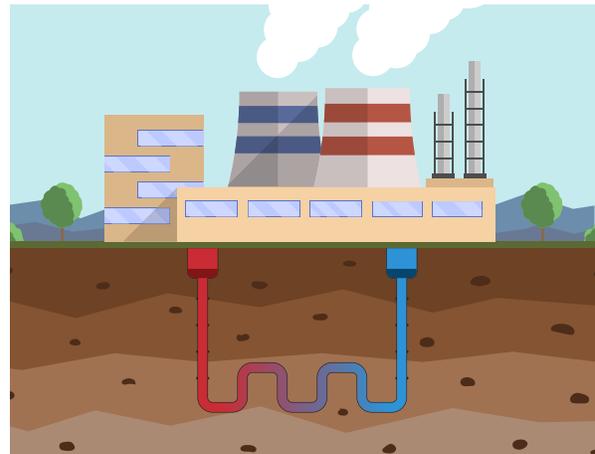
Geothermal energy development has the potential to diversify the northern Alberta economy. To provide northern communities with preliminary research on geothermal energy potential, the NADC partnered with the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association (ACCA) to conduct a feasibility study on the geothermal capacity across northern Alberta.

The ACCA contracted Terrapin Geothermics Inc. to conduct a geothermal resource evaluation of 42 northern communities over a five-month period.

The report provides technical overviews of geothermal resource potential, including:

- types of viable projects (power production, direct use, or direct heat);
- 31 areas in northern Alberta that showed suitable temperatures and basic geological factors to support further investigation into direct use opportunities; and
- 12 areas that contain suitable temperatures and geological factors for power generation.

The report is available for planners, economic development officers, municipalities, industry, and community groups interested in exploring geothermal potential in their regions. While there is growing stakeholder interest in this topic, the requisite regulatory framework for widespread geothermal energy development is not yet in place. Work is underway for Alberta Energy to explore this framework, and for now, projects are being reviewed on a case-by-case basis.



Collaborative Partnerships and Initiatives

► Northern Health Roundtable

The Northern Health Roundtable provides an opportunity for representatives from the NADC, Alberta Health, and Alberta Health Services to collaborate and provide input on the health programs and services in the NADC region. Teleconferences and face-to-face meetings are held quarterly.

Conversations during these roundtables create:

- shared understanding of northern issues and challenges;
- open and ongoing communication mechanisms to achieve health system efficiency and accountability in northern communities; and
- opportunities to hear input from NADC on health services needed in the region.

The NADC coordinated and attended meetings in June 2018, September 2018, and March 2019. Topics discussed included:

- attraction and retention activities in the North Zone;
- Indigenous health programs and cultural sensitivity training for staff to better support patients;

- infrastructure updates related to the construction of the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital;
- emerging use of telehealth to support child and youth psychiatry; and
- issues raised by northern Alberta elected leaders at the 2018 Northern Leaders' Summit.



► Labour Education Applied Research North

Labour Education Applied Research North (LEARN) is a joint initiative between the NADC, Grande Prairie Regional College, Keyano College, Northern Lakes College, and Portage College. LEARN members meet regularly to share and discuss northern labour and training information, conduct research, and report on labour market trends and opportunities to support the development of a skilled and educated local workforce in the region.

In February 2018, LEARN released the Digital Education Resources in Northern Alberta report. This report was shared with various staff and faculty at Portage, Keyano, Northern Lakes, and Grande Prairie Regional colleges. Following its release, the report was also used by:

- Grande Prairie Regional College library staff to inform the acquisition of new resources and the Educational Technology Centre in faculty meetings.
 - Grande Prairie Regional College also featured the report's findings online and in a webinar during the Canada-wide Open Education Resource Week.
- The NADC in its presentation at the Digital Futures Symposium in Vermilion in October 2018.
 - The presentation resulted in a meeting with the University of Alberta on the topic of Open Education Resources in Canada.

LEARN will be conducting a research project on information technology as it relates to skills and training needs in northern Alberta. Northern post-secondary institutions require updated information to help inform course offerings in the information technology field and better understand which information technology applications align with current and emerging business and industry requirements. The results will help LEARN members prepare for technology advancements that will impact the future needs of students, the workforce, and communities. Specifically, the study will aim to understand:

- recent trends in information technology use and its adoption in existing and emerging industries; and
- the supply and demand of information technology jobs in northern Alberta.

This study is expected to be completed in winter/spring 2020.



► Water North Coalition

Formed in 2014, the Water North Coalition (WNC) works to ensure sustainable water systems are available to every northern community. The Coalition meets quarterly in rotating locations across the north to discuss common challenges and collaborate on solutions related to water and wastewater management.

As of March 2019, there were 44 members, including 31 voting and 13 non-voting. Voting members include elected officials and water operators from northern Alberta municipalities, while non-voting members include water and wastewater commissions, professionals, rural water co-ops, and provincial government representatives.

Four meetings were held in Fairview, Cold Lake, Northern Sunrise County, and Lac La Biche County in April 2018, July 2018, November 2018, and January 2019, respectively with an average of 34 members in attendance at each. Attendees received presentations on new water and wastewater technologies, standardization of computer-based exams for water operators, and protection of drinking water sources in Alberta. The Coalition also:

- Raised awareness of WNC through exhibitions at various events throughout the year including:
 - Water Week North and Growing the North in Grande Prairie;
 - the Alberta Water and Wastewater Operators Association seminar in Banff;
 - the Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association tradeshow in Falher; and
 - the Rural Municipalities of Alberta spring convention in Edmonton.
- Updated the WNC promotional video to reflect changes made to subcommittees during the WNC's strategic planning session in April.
- Created a grants brochure that outlines funding opportunities for water/wastewater professionals.
- Completed mutual aid/contractor templates that assists communities in hiring water/wastewater operators on a short-term or long-term basis.
- Engaged with Alberta Environment and Parks to expedite the development of an online database to allow water and wastewater operators web-based access to training records. This database provides an up-to-date, streamlined process to:
 - apply for exam writings;
 - maintain and renew certifications; and
 - manage course completion records.
- Advocated for a new process to address delayed response to bacteriological testing of water samples.
 - The WNC worked with Alberta Health Services and Alberta Health to create a new process for the communication of water testing results – whether positive or negative – to water operators.

► Community Readiness Group

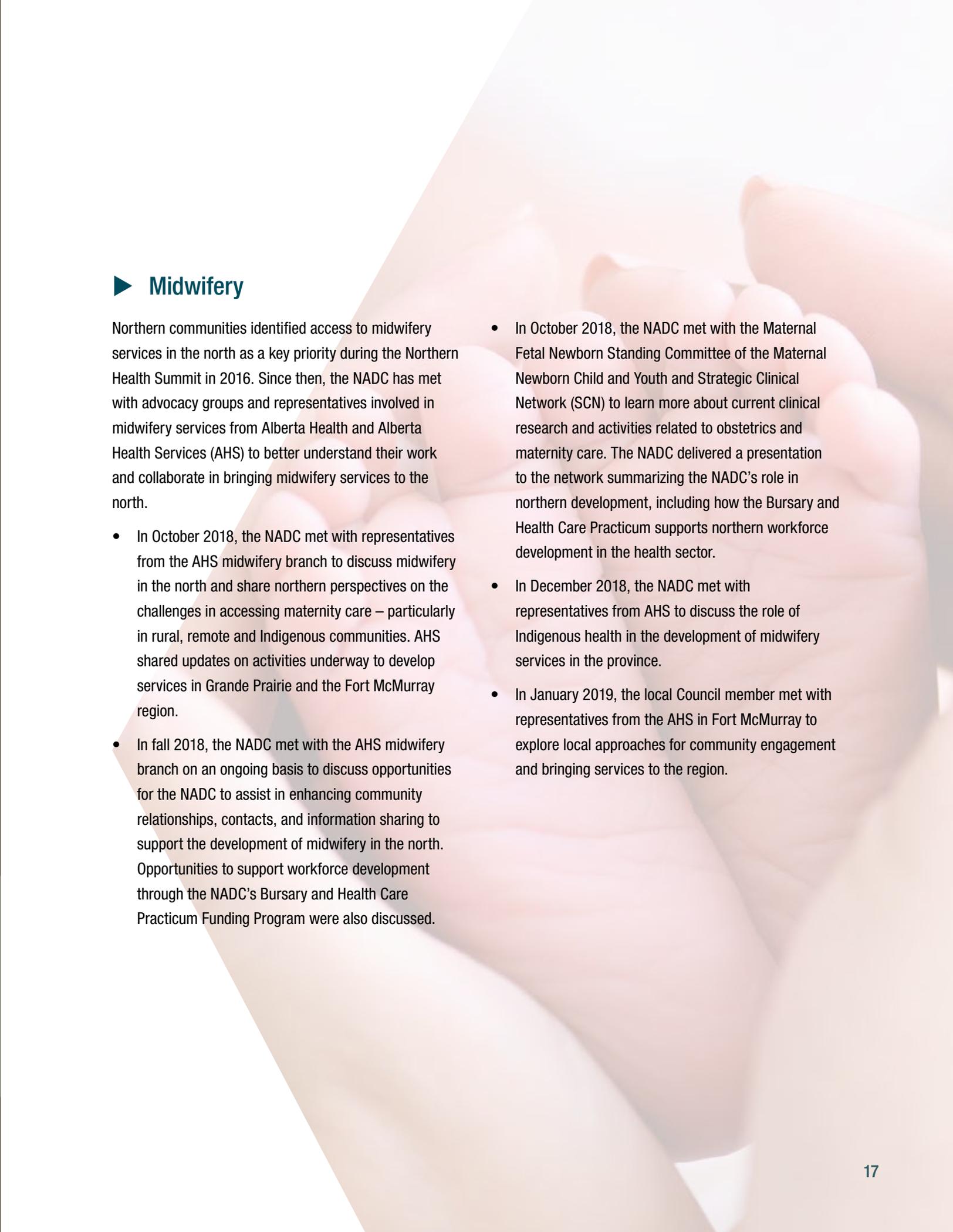
The Economic Impact and Gap Analysis of the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital study was released in 2016. The Community Readiness Group has been engaging with community and industry leaders to implement findings of this study and prepare the community for the upcoming opening of the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital.

Project partners include:

- Grande Prairie and District Chamber of Commerce;
- City of Grande Prairie Economic Development;
- County of Grande Prairie Economic Development;
- M.D. of Greenview Economic Development;
- Grande Prairie Regional College;
- Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation;
- Alberta Health Services; and
- NADC.

The Grande Prairie and District Chamber of Commerce chairs the meetings that include the project partners. The group met in October 2018 to review and receive updates on:

- gaps identified in the study;
- determining actions and accountability on identified gaps;
- emerging trends and changes in health service delivery; and
- hospital construction.



► Midwifery

Northern communities identified access to midwifery services in the north as a key priority during the Northern Health Summit in 2016. Since then, the NADC has met with advocacy groups and representatives involved in midwifery services from Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services (AHS) to better understand their work and collaborate in bringing midwifery services to the north.

- In October 2018, the NADC met with representatives from the AHS midwifery branch to discuss midwifery in the north and share northern perspectives on the challenges in accessing maternity care – particularly in rural, remote and Indigenous communities. AHS shared updates on activities underway to develop services in Grande Prairie and the Fort McMurray region.
- In fall 2018, the NADC met with the AHS midwifery branch on an ongoing basis to discuss opportunities for the NADC to assist in enhancing community relationships, contacts, and information sharing to support the development of midwifery in the north. Opportunities to support workforce development through the NADC's Bursary and Health Care Practicum Funding Program were also discussed.
- In October 2018, the NADC met with the Maternal Fetal Newborn Standing Committee of the Maternal Newborn Child and Youth and Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) to learn more about current clinical research and activities related to obstetrics and maternity care. The NADC delivered a presentation to the network summarizing the NADC's role in northern development, including how the Bursary and Health Care Practicum supports northern workforce development in the health sector.
- In December 2018, the NADC met with representatives from AHS to discuss the role of Indigenous health in the development of midwifery services in the province.
- In January 2019, the local Council member met with representatives from the AHS in Fort McMurray to explore local approaches for community engagement and bringing services to the region.

► Northern Trailblazers

The NADC started a new project, Northern Trailblazers, to increase knowledge exchange and showcase northern innovation and community best practices. The goal of the project is to promote the north as a resourceful and innovative place to live, work, and do business, while building capacity of northern communities and organizations through innovative practices in the following areas:



**Emergency management,
policing, and justice**



**Community and
health services**



**Local and regional
economic development**



**Industry development
(oil and gas, forestry, agriculture)**



**Post-secondary and
primary education**



**Tourism, recreation,
and culture**



**Indigenous and
municipal collaboration**



**Workforce development
and retention**

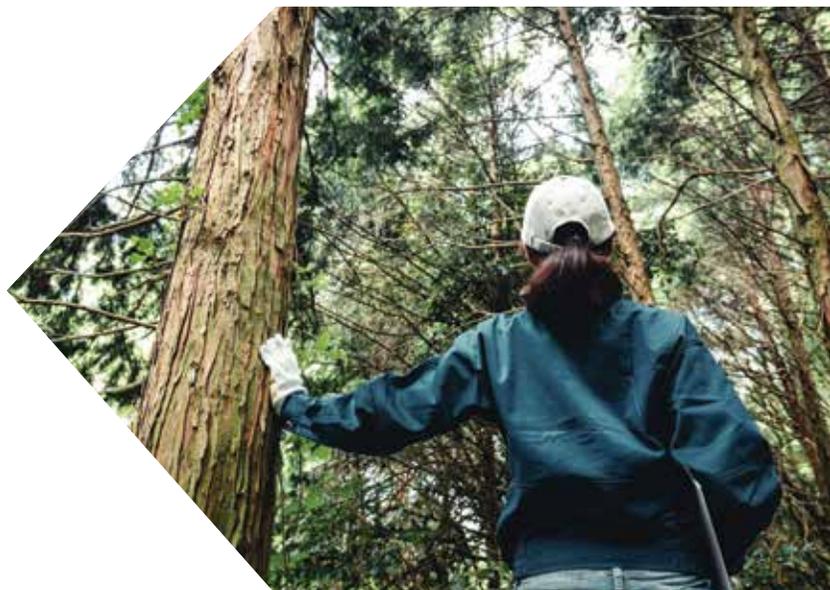
The NADC is reaching out to northern communities to collect submissions of northern innovations and a summary of select examples will be featured online in fall 2019.

► Woodland Operations Learning Foundation

Woodland Operations Learning Foundation (WOLF), a non-profit corporation founded in 2001, is governed by a 14-member board of directors and provides forestry training programs and certifications for environmental training and forest resource workers. Keeping up-to-date on WOLF's activities and developments supports the NADC goal of creating a skilled, educated local workforce.

NADC staff participated in an October 2018 meeting in Edmonton as well as a January 2019 teleconference. Between 12 and 20 WOLF members attended these meetings and discussed course developments and curriculum plans, the status of course intakes, and committee updates to support training opportunities for the forestry industry.

A forestry training partnership between WOLF, the NADC, Northern Lakes College, Alberta Forest Products Association, and Alberta Labour is also working to address the shortage of log truck drivers in Alberta and provide the training needed to help drivers become certified. Representatives of this partnership met through teleconference in November 2018 to discuss the shortage of log truck drivers, challenges to addressing the gap, and potential solutions.



DID YOU KNOW...

The forestry industry contributes \$7.1 billion to the provincial economy every year.¹¹

¹¹ Government of Alberta. (2019). *Alberta's forest economy. A handbook of publicly accessible economic and socioeconomic statistical accounts.*

Local and Regional Engagements

► Northern Leaders' Summit

The NADC hosted the Northern Leaders' Summit in Slave Lake in December 2018. Elected officials and senior government representatives discussed opportunities, challenges, experiences and perspectives as they relate to the economic and social development of the north.

Former Premier Rachel Notley and eight members of her Cabinet attended the summit. Over 150 delegates from 46 northern municipalities and Indigenous communities also attended.

Emerging themes included:

- the need for local access to services;
- stable funding for municipalities, infrastructure, and essential services;
- challenges in getting commodities to market; and
- streamlining regulations and requirements to encourage timely business development.

Key themes identified by ministry:

- **Advanced Education:** Provide local training options, address the shortage of skilled trades personnel, build a pipeline training centre, and improve access to advanced education for Indigenous communities.
- **Agriculture and Forestry:** Remedy the challenges in getting agricultural and forest products to market, consider the emerging potential of growing hemp in northern Alberta, and address concerns around fiber sharing, forest fire prevention, and the mountain pine beetle.
- **Children's Services:** Place Indigenous children in care in homes within their communities, provide training for operating kinship homes, hire support workers familiar with Indigenous traditions, and implement 25 dollar a day childcare across the north and in smaller day homes.
- **Community and Social Services:** Increase funding for Family Community Support Services, provide funding for support services in local organizations, address challenges in recruiting and retaining community service professionals, and supply more supports and services to address the impacts of domestic violence on children.
- **Economic Development:** Diversify industry, construct a refinery, maintain funding for Regional Economic Development Alliances, and reduce red tape that hinders economic development.
- **Education:** Build/renovate schools, recruit and retain program-specific teachers, revisit the funding model for education, and rethink education as an investment instead of a cost.

- **Energy:** Alleviate challenges in getting oil and gas to market, remedy delays in projects due to lengthy consultation processes and jurisdictional restrictions, and address natural gas and electricity utility constraints.
- **Environment and Parks:** Address the impacts of caribou conservation on the economy, industry, and the workforce, remedy challenges in developing municipal water systems, and alleviate red tape in the fishing industry.
- **Health:** Provide senior focused healthcare and long-term care facilities, improve access to services in home communities, develop a new framework for physician recruitment, and address concerns around children's health in the areas of addiction and legalized cannabis.
- **Indigenous Relations:** Encourage collaboration between governments to reduce red tape, streamline consultation processes and red tape on projects between First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities and municipalities, and implement reconciliation in education, consultation processes, and agricultural activities.
- **Infrastructure:** Provide funding to replace infrastructure, small airports and airstrips for emergency landings, and build an East-West connector linking the Peace Country with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
- **Municipal Affairs:** Provide stable, predictable funding for municipalities, build local infrastructure, modernize the Municipal Government Act by decreasing rules and regulations, and develop a social policy network to deal with the urban/rural divide.
- **Seniors and Housing:** Provide more seniors housing, affordable housing solutions, and funding and supports to address homelessness in northern communities.
- **Service Alberta:** Ensure high speed, affordable, secure internet connectivity for northerners to access services, training, and operate businesses, and collaborate with other ministries and jurisdictions to provide access to broadband.
- **Transportation:** Remedy challenges in getting products to market, address safety concerns regarding moving products by rail, and improve highway safety.

The findings generated from northern leaders attending the summit were shared with government, northern communities, and stakeholders to support priority setting and advocacy efforts. A proceedings report summarizing the discussions was prepared to help inform northern communities and government and support future strategic planning and action by the NADC.

► Northern Alberta Elected Leaders

Northern Alberta Elected Leaders (NAEL) is comprised of leaders from northwestern municipalities who work collaboratively to identify and raise awareness of issues facing northern municipalities. The group shares information, collaborates on regional issues, and works with other orders of government to support municipal development. The information shared through NAEL helps inform and shape advice the NADC provides to the Government of Alberta. The NADC coordinated and attended meetings held in Valleyview in July 2018 and in St. Isidore in January 2019.

Approximately 50 elected municipal representatives, senior municipal executives, and presenters from across urban and rural communities in northwestern Alberta attended each meeting.

Discussion topics included:

- legalization of cannabis and impact on municipalities, including revenue sharing;
- species at risk with a primary focus on Caribou Range Planning;
- funding for policing services;
- broadband connectivity;
- rural crime;
- Alberta's habitat conservation efforts; and
- access to health services and workforce development.

As a follow up to the St. Isidore meeting, the NADC coordinated a webinar with Alberta Environment and Parks in February 2018. This webinar served to update municipalities on the provincial government's approach to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures that are emerging as part of Alberta's habitat conservation efforts.

► Photo Contests

The Capture the North Photo Contest promotes the spectacular and unique beauty of the north and raises awareness of the region's work, recreation, and lifestyle opportunities through digital media. Members of the public are invited to submit photos of northern Alberta taken within the NADC boundary. Photo contest images are then used in the NADC's publications, on the NADC website, and in other marketing materials.

Two photo contests took place in 2018, which covered a variety of categories. Categories for the spring/summer contest included:

- People at Work;
- Culture, Events, and History;
- Northern Family, Community Life, and Recreation; and
- Amazing North.

New categories were created for the summer/fall contest in an effort to receive entries that included northern worksites, signature events, and stunning evening vistas during summer and fall. Categories included:

- North at Work (depictions of northerners at work in various sectors);
- North at Heart (depictions of communities' signature events and places, landmarks, and people enjoying life in the north); and
- North at Night (depictions of scenic northern vistas, wildlife and cityscapes from dusk to dawn).

Winning photos and contest details can be found at <https://nadc.ca/our-north/photo-contest>

► Contest Photos

Northern Family, Community Life and Recreation



Lynn Beaupre
1st Place: Safe!



Anna Duke
2nd Place: Sunset boat ride over
Beaver Lake

Culture, Events and History



Lynn Beaupre
1st Place: Back in Time 1



Matt Dettling
2nd Place: The Test of Time

People at Work



Lesley Vandemark
1st Place: Busy Highway 40



Anna Duke
2nd Place: Visiting a wildfire burn site
to see regeneration progress

DID YOU KNOW...

940 photos have been submitted for the photo contest since its launch in 2010.

North at Heart



Sharon Stanich

1st Place: It's Your Turn Now



Matt Dettling

2nd Place: Fences, Fields & Sunsets

North at Work



Matt Dettling

1st Place: The Test of Time



Lynn Beaupre

2nd Place: Drilling Rig

North at Night



Lynn Beaupre

1st Place: Northern Lights



Dalique van der Nest

2nd Place: Carnival

Amazing North



Eileen Yarmuch

1st Place: A Natural Village



Matthew Dettling

2nd Place: Bird is the Word

Health Care Practicum

The NADC and Alberta Health Services collaborate to offer the Health Care Practicum Funding program. This program provides travel and accommodation funding for students considering a northern placement for their health care practicum, and aims to show students the health care opportunities in the region. Funding was allocated to 54 applicants totaling \$50,000. The types of programs supported through this program include:

9 practicums funded

Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technology



8 practicums funded

Occupational Therapy



7 practicums funded

Medical Radiation Technology



6 practicums funded

Physical Therapy



5 practicums funded

Nutrition – Dietetics Specialization



4 practicums funded

Diagnostic Medical Sonography



3 practicums funded

Health Information Management



3 practicums funded

Recreation Therapist



2 practicums funded

Licensed Practical Nurse



2 practicums funded

Registered Nurse



1 practicum funded

Pharmacy



1 practicum funded

Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy



1 practicum funded

Biomedical Engineering Technology



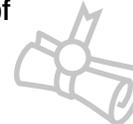
1 practicum funded

Doctor of Pharmacy



1 practicum funded

Bachelor of Nursing



NADC Bursary Programs

For over 40 years, the NADC has offered bursary programs to help attract and retain skilled professionals in demand throughout the NADC region. Selected recipients received funding while attending post-secondary institutions with the agreement that they live and work within the NADC boundary (one year per each year of funding received) once they have completed their program of study. Alberta Advanced Education and the NADC provided funding totaling \$1.2 million for the 2018-19 school year. Alberta Education provided more than \$300,000 for the Northern Student Teacher bursary for the 2018-19 school year.

The bursary program includes:

- the NADC bursary;
- specialty bursaries (medical/dentistry, nurse practitioner, pharmacy, veterinarian);
- bursary partnerships;
- First Nations (status or non-status), Métis, and Inuit bursary; and
- the Northern Student Teacher Bursary.

DID YOU KNOW...

The NADC disbursed over \$1.5 million to 229 bursary recipients for the 2018-19 school year.



► 2018-19 NADC Bursary Programs at a Glance



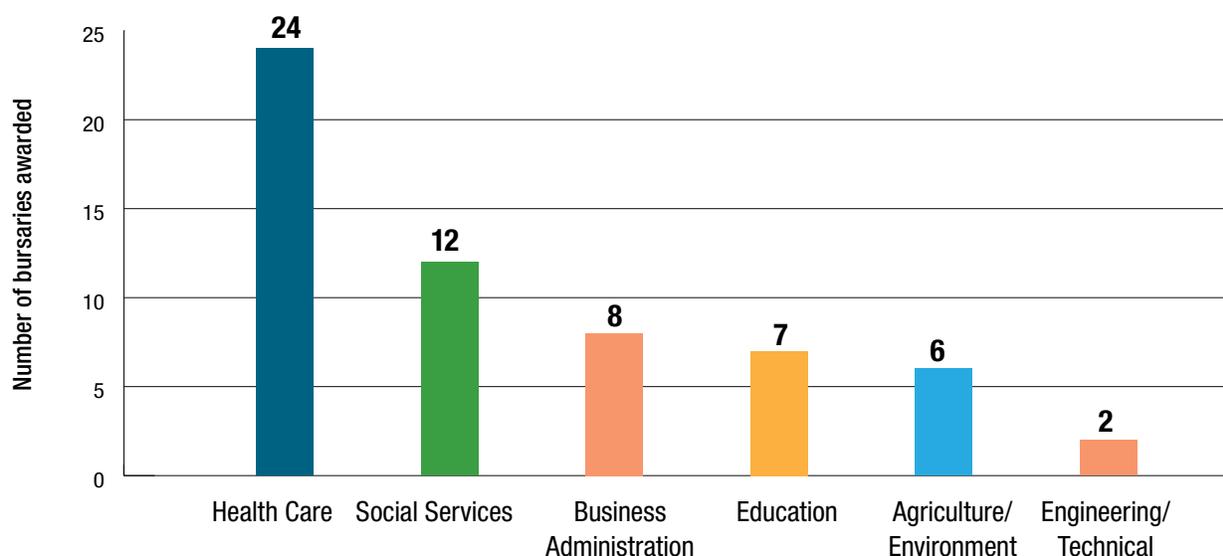
► NADC General and Specialty Bursaries

The NADC bursary assists students training in professions that northern employers consider in demand. Of the 225 Alberta students who applied in 2018-19, 59 received general NADC bursaries and 16 received specialty bursaries. Recipients were enrolled in two certificate

programs, 15 diploma programs, 32 undergraduate degree programs, and 10 Masters programs.

The NADC specialty bursaries are designed to address certain professionals that are in demand. Bursary values range from \$6,000 to \$12,000.

The 59 general bursaries were distributed in the following sectors:



► NADC Bursary Partnership Program

NADC bursary partnerships offer businesses and community organizations the opportunity to bring in skilled professionals that align with their establishments. Sponsors provide selected students from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Students are then required to apply to the NADC for matching bursary funds. Specialty bursaries have higher matching fund requirements that range from \$6,000 to \$12,000. Recipients are obligated to provide return service within the NADC region, based on one

month of full-time employment for every \$500 of total bursary support received to a maximum of 12 months return service per year.

In 2018-19, 62 partnership bursaries totaling \$236,500 were awarded, with \$118,250 of the funds provided through the NADC. Two dentistry students and a pharmacy student were among the recipients, with two employers matching funds of \$12,000 each for the dentistry students, and \$6,000 for the pharmacy student.

► **First Nations (status or non-status), Métis, and Inuit Bursary**

The First Nations (status or non-status), Métis, and Inuit bursary was introduced four years ago, to meet the needs of Indigenous learners. Alberta Student Aid provides the funding for the program, and the NADC administers the program and selects the recipients. The bursary provides \$6,000 for students in a certificate or diploma program, and \$10,000 for students in a Bachelors, Masters, or PhD program. In 2018-19, there were 218 applications. Of these applications, 65 applicants were selected. Bursary recipients were enrolled in a certificate program, 12 diploma programs, 42 undergraduate degree programs, and nine Masters programs. One recipient enrolled in medical school.

► **Northern Student Teacher Bursary**

Recruiting and retaining teachers in rural and remote regions in northern Alberta is challenging. Demand for teachers will grow as population projections for school-age children and the number of teacher retirements continue to increase. The NADC collaborates with Alberta Education to offer the Northern Student Teacher Bursary. Applicants in their last or second-to-last year of schooling in a Bachelor of Education program are eligible. In 2018-19, 145 applications were received, and 27 bursaries were awarded. There was a relatively equal split between recipients entering their last year of schooling (13) and those students in their second-to-last year of schooling (14).

NADC Communications

NADC uses several methods to inform, engage, and cultivate relationships with northern residents, community leaders, business, and industry. Face-to-face meetings, roundtables and events keep Council and staff aware of both challenges and opportunities that exist throughout the region. Newsletters, videos, the NADC website, and the NADC social media accounts inform stakeholders of the latest research, partnerships, initiatives, and events. The NADC has channeled efforts to improve contact lists, outreach, and the NADC's social media following on Facebook and Twitter.

► Social Media Highlights 2018-19



22%
INCREASE IN
'LIKES' FROM
2017-18 TO
2018-19

159
NUMBER OF
ORIGINAL POSTS

56%
INCREASE IN
NUMBER OF
ORIGINAL POSTS
FROM 2017-18

A NADC Facebook post, released on March 18, 2019, about the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Bursary Program was viewed more than

17,000 TIMES



5%
INCREASE
IN TWITTER
FOLLOWERS FROM
2017-18 TO
2018-19

209
NUMBER OF
ORIGINAL POSTS

28%
INCREASE IN
NUMBER OF
ORIGINAL POSTS
FROM 2017-18

DYK: During the 2018-2019 year NADC tweets were viewed **120,000+** TIMES!

MORE THAN **50%** INCREASE from the number of tweet views the previous year.

DYK: Over 800 users visited the NADC website over a two day period in March 2019 to view the Leaders' Summit Proceedings Report and bursary information.



WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS

Top page views include the NADC home page and the bursary home page, followed by specific pages for various NADC bursaries (NADC bursary, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit bursary), and the bursary application page.



NEWSLETTERS

The NADC's summer and winter 2018 newsletters were sent to more than 900 northern stakeholders.

Information bulletins and invitations to the Northern Leaders' Summit, the annual NADC photo contest and the Northern Trailblazers initiative reached many more stakeholders throughout the year.



NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATED MAP

The Northern Development Integrated Map¹² provides practical information to enable and develop local and regional joint projects within the NADC region. This map not only provides a visual perspective of themes and statistics, but also allows customized and interactive views. The NADC continues to engage with stakeholders to showcase the information and discuss potential features to maximize the value of this product for northern communities.

To learn the latest NADC news, events, initiatives, and activities, follow us on:



<https://www.facebook.com/NADCca/>



<https://twitter.com/NADCca>



<https://nadc.ca/>

¹² Northern Development Integrated Map: <https://maps.alberta.ca/NADC/Viewer?Viewer=NADC> Northern Development Integrated Map: <https://maps.alberta.ca/NADC/Viewer?Viewer=NADC>

Appendices

► Council Biographies



**Debbie Jabbour,
former-Chair**

Debbie Jabbour was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, representing the constituency of Peace River, on May 5, 2015 and was appointed as the Chair of the NADC in September 2016. On June 11, 2015, she was elected Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees. She served as a member of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices and the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services. Prior to serving as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, she worked as a mental health specialist, an analyst with Alberta Health, and as a Hansard input editor with the Alberta Legislative Assembly. Her appointment as Chair expired in October 2018.



Ken Noskey

Ken is currently in his 29th year as an elected official. He was President of the Métis Settlements General Council for nine years, has served on the Council of the Peavine Métis Settlement for 19 years and was re-elected for another term in October 2017. He has presented to both the Senate and the Royal Aboriginal Commission on Aboriginal governance and twice travelled abroad with the federal government to share the Canadian experience of Aboriginal governance with Indigenous people in Argentina and Thailand. He represented the Peavine Métis Settlement as a member of the Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance and the High Prairie Chamber of Commerce. Ken's passion is to see the north's human resources developed to maximize the potential of the region's natural resources and contribute to building stronger communities across the north.



**Alden
Armstrong**

Alden Armstrong was elected three times to the Paddle Prairie Council, serving two terms as Chairman and one as Vice-Chairman. He was also elected President of the General Council for one term. Because of his election to office, he was able to provide the northern perspective to Alberta's Water for Life Strategy and ensured that the north was served while he was director on the Rural Alberta Development Fund. His community service was recognized in 2005 with an Alberta Centennial Medal.



Cody Beirsto

Cody Beirsto is a partner in a family-run business founded 54 years ago and has previously served one year as president and four years as a member of the Grande Prairie and District Chamber of Commerce. As a current member of the Community Futures Grande Prairie and Region Board, he particularly enjoys the role he plays in helping entrepreneurs access the capital they need to get started, innovate and grow. In delivering the NADC's mandate, Cody brings his passion for social and economic development and his belief that, more now than ever, Albertans and Northerners cannot develop in isolation of each other.



Jason Schulz

Jason brings extensive business, industry and volunteer experience to his role with the NADC. After earning an MBA, he taught business at Keyano College for 10 years, teaching courses in marketing and human resources. A highlight was working with the Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association that facilitated an Aboriginal Incubator study to encourage success in Aboriginal business. He was a contracts manager with industry and is currently Director, Strategic Advisory Services with Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation. Jason is a member of the Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation and a

former member of the Wood Buffalo Real Estate and Zoning Development Appeals Board. He is also a past member on the Board of Directors for Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Child and Family Services and sat on the Athabasca Oil Sands Area Transportation Coordinating Committee, which is comprised of industry, provincial and municipal government and advocates for transportation initiatives within the region.



Karla Buffalo

Karla Buffalo has lived in the north since 1999 and is currently CEO of the Athabasca Tribal Council, which provides services to five First Nations. She has previously worked with Fort McKay First Nation as manager of government relations, with Syncrude in stakeholder relations and with the Government of Alberta in community development. In her community, Karla volunteers as a doula. Doulas provide support to expectant mothers to help them have healthy pregnancies and prepare for a successful labour and delivery. She is now the head doula in her community and is mentoring and training others to practice this important vocation for the health and support of mothers and babies. In her role with the NADC, Karla is most interested in working on the development of communities and service delivery.



Peter Cardinal

Peter is a committed member of his community, volunteering his skills to serve its economic, social, health and political needs. He helped revive Buffalo Days and its Métis triathlon that tests participants' skills in canoeing, running and horseback riding. He also helped start the Wellness Committee to offer community-based programs in social, mental and emotional well-being. He is a current board member with Community Futures Lac La Biche and AlbertaHUB, as well as a former board member of the trust fund and health board of Métis Settlements General Council for all eight settlements. In his role with Community Futures Lac La Biche, Peter particularly values his ability to provide business coaching and prepare the newest entrepreneurs for success. Peter sees the future of the north as

driven by more than just resources. The vast landscape and beauty of the north have great potential for tourism and agricultural growth. He sees the recent economic downturn as an opportunity to focus on improving oil and gas technologies and diversifying into other industries.



**Jeannette
Danks**

Jeannette has lived in northern Alberta for 35 years and has grown to love the way its residents collaborate to make their communities stronger. Jeannette is a financial advisor with a long history in the banking and finance industry and has held executive positions with the Peace River and District Chamber of Commerce, Peace River Curling Club, and Peace River Child Care Association. In her role with the Peace River Child Care Association, she helped guide the funding and construction phases to replace the daycare building that had been destroyed by a fire in May 2014. In delivering the NADC's mandate, Jeannette is most interested in social and economic development and looks forward to contributing her experience in finance and her understanding of community action to help pursue social and economic development in the north through a balanced approach that spans industry diversification to equal access to healthcare and education.



Paula Evans

Paula, a 40-year resident of the north, previously served as a Municipal Councillor for the Town of Athabasca for nine years and is a retired teacher. Paula understands that community development is as important as economic development if a community plans to retain both its workforce and younger generations. She is currently the chair of the Alice B. Donahue Library and Archives Board, treasurer for the Athabasca Heritage Society, and a member of Science Outreach Athabasca, the Baptiste and Island Lake Stewardship Society and the Crooked Creek Conservancy. All these community development initiatives strive to improve the quality of life of northern citizens. Paula would like to focus her time with the NADC on helping to develop and refine government services and programs, with a particular emphasis on advancing NADC bursaries that encourage providing students with learning experience in much needed employment sectors in the north.



Sheri MacMillan

Sheri MacMillan is an Addictions Counsellor with Alberta Health Services where she sees many of the people that suffer when the economy goes through its boom and bust cycle. Her interest extends to the workplace where she is making a difference by becoming a Union Steward with Health Sciences Association of Alberta to be an advocate for workers in a volatile economy. Sheri enjoys scrapbooking in her free time for self-care and has had some of her work published in the Creative Scrapbooker Magazine. She wants to work on the development of community and service delivery mandate, working to give social agencies a voice and preparing community agencies to help with people in need.

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