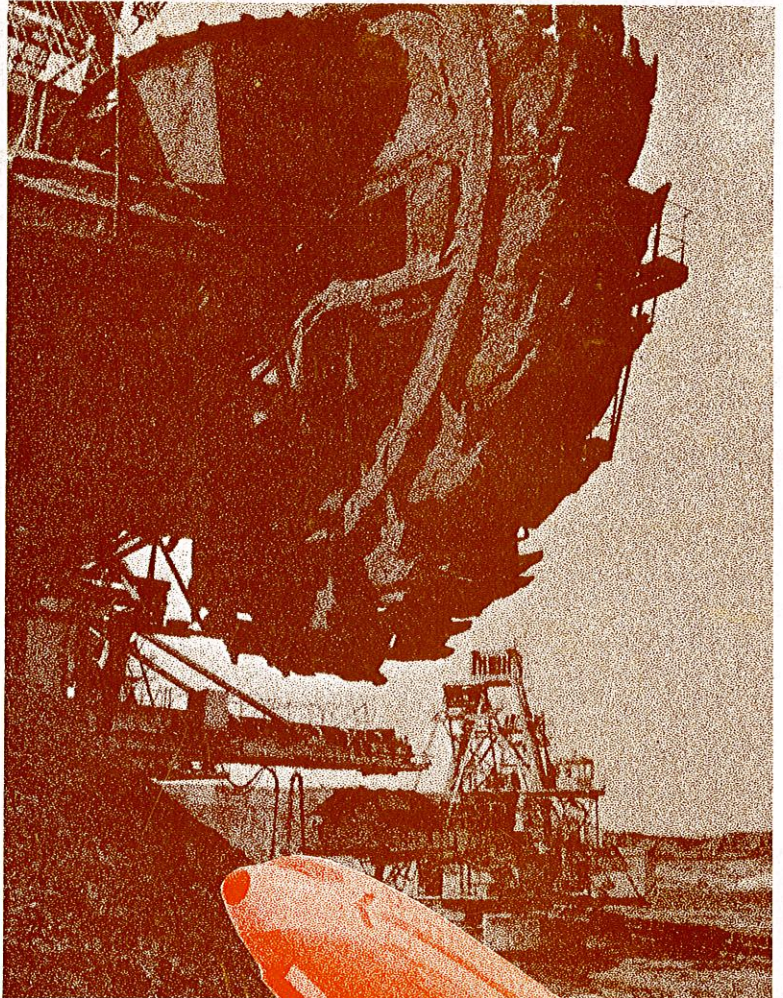
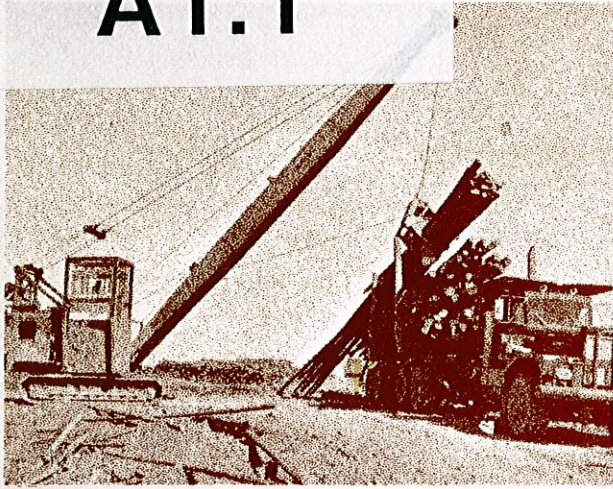


A1.1



# ANNUAL REPORT 1977-78



**Alberta**  
NORTHERN ALBERTA  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
AND TOURISM

403/427-3162

Office of  
the Minister

228 Legislative Building  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
T5K 2B6

To His Honour  
R. G. Steinhauer  
Lieutenant-Governor of the  
Province of Alberta

Sir:

The undersigned has the honour to transmit  
herewith the fourteenth Annual Report of the  
Northern Alberta Development Council.

Respectfully submitted

R. W. (Bob) Dowling  
Chairman  
Northern Alberta Development Council

TABLE OF CONTENTS

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
Statement of the Minister	1
Northern Alberta Development Council	3
Goals for Programs	4
Members	11
Area of Jurisdiction	12
Northern Alberta Development Council Activities	13
Briefs Received 1977-78	13
Economic Development Position Paper	18
Student Bursary Program	20
Visit to Yukon and Northwest Territories	22
Northern Development Branch	25
Alberta North Interim Subsidiary Agreement	27

STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER

in

to

part

to

at

Pro.

Also

Com

and

visit

trip

with

problem

In

document.

## STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER

Honorable R. W. (Bob) Dowling  
Minister of Business Development & Tourism  
Responsible for Northern Development

During the 1970's, Northern Alberta has experienced a period of unprecedented growth. It has been my privilege since 1975 to assist the Northern Alberta Development Council to actively participate in this advancement.

The Council through public meetings held in various locations in the North, works closely with northern residents, industry, municipal authorities and MLAs to ensure balanced development in the North; development that combines maximum benefit to northern people with an awareness of the adjustments and impacts inherent in lifestyle changes.

The signing of the five-year, \$55 million Alberta North Agreement at Fort Vermilion in February, 1978 was a major step forward. Projects under the new Agreement will be cost-shared between Alberta and the federal government in the areas of Human Development, Community Services and Facilities, Community Economic Development, and Social Adjustment and Professional Development.

The Council's information-sharing mechanism was enhanced by a visit to the Yukon and Northwest Territories in August, 1977. The trip provided us with an opportunity to exchange ideas and information with Territorial Councillors on a wide range of common interests and problem areas.

In an attempt to refine and broaden the Goals for Programs document, Council issued a position paper in December, 1977 entitled

"Economic Development of Northern Alberta." The paper discusses the fundamentals involved in a proposed economic development strategy for the North and describes the techniques Council feels Government should employ to assist such development. The paper concludes by asking for reaction and feedback from government and northerners.

We are confident that during 1978-79 the Northern Alberta Development Council will continue to play a major role in promoting the well-being of all Northern Albertans.



NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

## NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Northern Alberta Development Council is operational in an area totalling 139,103 square miles with a total population of 174,272. The map on page 12 indicates the southern boundary of the Council area.

The Council acts in an advisory capacity to the Minister Responsible for Northern Development, and through him assists in the investigation, planning, promotion and co-ordination of practical measures to foster and advance development in Northern Alberta.

By holding regular public meetings in various northern communities, the Council serves as a forum to which northern residents can express their interests and concerns regarding development of the North.

The Northern Alberta Development Council Act gives the Council a broad responsibility for promoting economic and social development in Northern Alberta, and advising the provincial government on policies appropriate to the area. The general purposes that Council wishes to promote are:

- to increase economic opportunities within Northern Alberta so that young people will not be compelled to leave;
- to enhance the viability of traditional northern small town and rural life;
- to support the desires of disadvantaged people in Northern Alberta for a fair share in the wealth and potential of the area; and
- to support the desires of various cultural and ethnic groups within Northern Alberta for maintenance of their distinctive heritage.

Consistent with these purposes, Council has developed a Goals for Programs document for consideration by government. Council intends to further refine the Goals and continue to work with provincial government departments and agencies to achieve the broad objectives outlined.

## GOALS FOR PROGRAMS

### A. Goals for Economic Development

#### 1. Resource Development

(a) Natural Resources: To encourage development of the natural resources of Northern Alberta as markets, technology and availability of capital and labor permit, within the constraints established by conservation and environmental protection policies, and at a rate which will maintain stability.

(b) Good Corporate Citizenship: To promote the concept of "good corporate citizenship" and to make this concept operational in Northern Alberta; the concept to include requirements for training and employment of local people, town and regional planning and services, as well as conservation and environmental protection.

#### 2. Diversification

(a) Agriculture: To encourage an increase in the variety of agricultural commodities produced and processed in Northern Alberta, and to promote off-farm employment opportunities which complement northern farming.

(b) Non-Agriculture: To encourage diversification of other sectors of the northern economy (for example tourism, forestry, mining) so that a wider range of commodities is produced and so that resources are better utilized.

### 3. Planning

(a) Resource Communities: To attempt to influence the scheduling of major resource developments, and to stage their construction so that sufficient time is available for rational design of communities and for provision of housing and other community services.

(b) Land Use Planning System: To encourage the development of a land use planning system for Northern Alberta which would incorporate the following features:

- identification of critical areas which have unique characteristics worthy of preservation;
- resolution of land use conflicts;
- reaction to population growth in an orderly, planned way so that land and related facilities are available for people as they need them;
- incorporation of appropriate public participation;
- definition of the roles and powers of the various individuals and groups who are interested in a particular land use decision (the owner of the land in question, the people who live in its immediate vicinity, the municipality in which it is located, the people and municipalities in the wider region, and the Provincial Government).

(c) Availability of Planning Expertise: To assist in reinforcing and broadening the capability of the Provincial Government and the Regional Planning Commissions to assist local governments, where requested, in planning for the orderly development of their communities and in organizing their financial affairs.

#### 4. Economic Development for People

(a) Establishment of Industries: To encourage the establishment of industries in northern areas where needed by people, both for provision of jobs and as a means for lowering local prices.

(b) Special Needs of Native People: To help the native people of Northern Alberta become economically self-sufficient through assistance and management counselling for enterprises owned and operated by natives, and through job training and counselling; at the same time recognizing the special status of Treaty Indian people, their Treaties, and their relationship with the Government of Canada.

#### B. Goals for Development of Communities

##### 1. Local Decision Making

(a) Local Government-Unorganized Communities: To encourage the establishment of a system of local decision making, coupled with necessary financial resources and special leadership training programs, to enable unorganized communities who desire local government to have more control over the affairs of their communities, and to provide services to their people.

(b) Local Government-Unorganized Areas: To encourage a review of the need to establish a method whereby people in the sparsely settled Improvement Districts can, as a stage in their possible transition to a more formal status, move beyond the existing Advisory Committees to an arrangement which will give them a greater degree of control over the planning and decision making for their area.

## C. Goals for Development of Education

### 1. Elementary and Secondary Schools

To reinforce the need for curriculum appropriate to northern living; to strengthen local school autonomy, and to encourage additional funding and more varied resources where applicable.

### 2. Post-Secondary

(a) Regional Colleges: To reinforce the capability of the Regional College system to provide continuing education appropriate to Northern Alberta, by encouraging the recruitment and development of staff with northern expertise, and the use of curricula oriented towards the North.

(b) University Programs: To reinforce the capability of present Alberta universities to serve northern students and to prepare people with professional expertise needed in the North, through appropriate on-campus university programs, through courses offered for credit in the North, and through special support for northern university students.

### 3. Vocational Training

(a) Vocational Training Centers: To encourage the expansion and, where necessary, adjustment of the system of Alberta Vocational Centers, to ensure that their size, structure and programs are appropriate to northern conditions, and that they can serve northern people adequately in career development and job placement.

(b) Training On-The-Job: To work with industry to develop a system of training on-the-job that will help northern people take advantage of industrial and economic opportunities.

D. Goals for Development of Government Services

1. Health Services

(a) Treatment Facilities: To encourage the continuing improvement in the treatment of physical and mental illnesses of northern people, by increasing the number of doctors, public health nurses, dentists, optometrists, and other medical personnel available; by increasing the number of hospital beds and improving hospital facilities; and by improving techniques for evacuating the sick from isolated areas.

(b) Prevention: To advocate an increase in the amount of resources devoted to prevention of physical and mental illness, through public education, through better housing, water and sewage facilities, through school lunch programs; with particular emphasis on involvement of local people.

(c) Alcoholism and Drug Abuse: To encourage an increase in the amount of resources devoted to dealing with problems associated with the abuse of alcohol and other drugs, to the end that persons suffering from such abuse may be adequately treated and, by every means possible, the incidence of these problems may be reduced through prevention.

## 2. Community Services

(a) Law Enforcement: To encourage a continuing review of the northern law enforcement system, including such aspects as policing, legal aid and counselling, community legal services, probation, parole and aftercare, institutions and diversionary programs and employment of northern people within the correctional and other institutions.

(b) Housing and Household Amenities: To encourage expansion and improvement of programs to provide housing, healthy water supply and modern sewage disposal to communities. Essential to this goal is the provision of counselling services where applicable.

(c) Recreation and Culture: To encourage an increase in the availability of recreational and cultural facilities and personnel for communities, by increasing levels of support and by exploring multiple uses for public buildings.

(d) Transportation and Communications: To encourage an increase in the rate of development and improvement of transportation and communications services in Northern Alberta, especially for the communities which are substantially isolated.

## 3. Program Delivery System

(a) General Service System: To explore continuously ways of improving the design, implementation, efficiency and the co-ordination of all programs so that they are relevant to Northern Alberta, and so that the people of the North enjoy a level of service approaching that of the more densely populated South.



(b) Government Field Staff: To encourage the rationalization of the area boundaries used by various government departments and agencies which employ field personnel in Northern Alberta, and to explore methods of combining functions of field personnel so that a better distribution is achieved throughout the North.

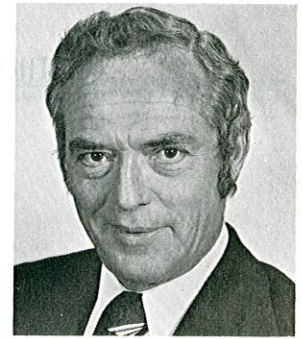
#### 4. Communications Between Government and People

(a) Northern Alberta Development Council: To maintain the Northern Alberta Development Council as a communications link between the northern people and government; to have it meet frequently at various northern locations to discuss and comment on government activities in the area, to hear briefs from local people, and to recommend responses to problems.

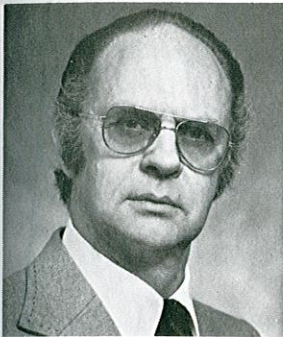
(b) Information Officers: To promote decentralization of government program delivery personnel and assist all existing field personnel in the adequate provision of information to government on local conditions and the local point of view, and to assist local people to make the most of available government services.

# MEMBERS OF THE NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

April 1977 — March 1978



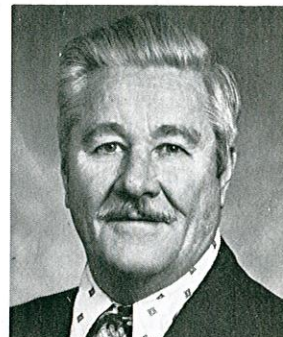
HON. R.W. DOWLING  
Chairman



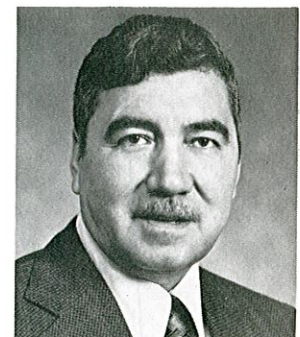
E. BORSTAD  
Grande Prairie  
1978



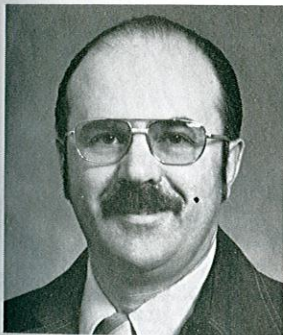
R. DUNCAN  
Fort McMurray  
1973 — 1977



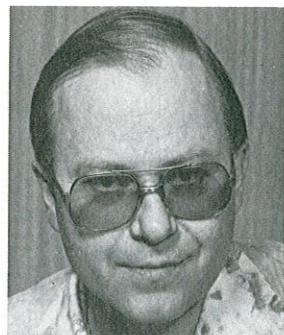
I. LAWRENCE  
High Prairie  
Vice Chairman  
1973 — present



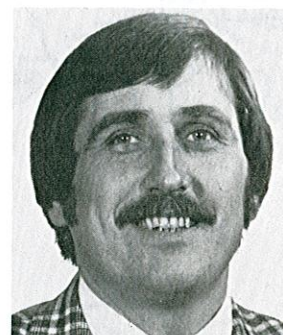
H. SINCLAIR  
Slave Lake  
1978 — present



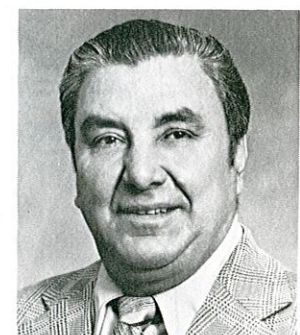
L. CHORNEY  
Fairview  
1976 — present



J. FLETCHER  
Grande Prairie  
1973 — 1977



L. PELLAND JR.  
McLennan  
1973 — 1977



S. SMITH  
Fort Vermilion  
1976 — present



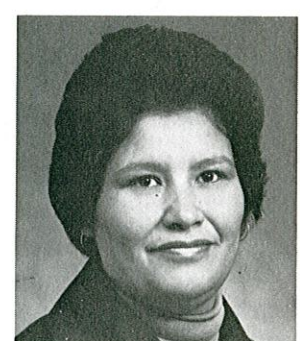
J. DROBOT  
St. Paul  
1978 — present



J. LANGEVIN  
Lac La Biche  
1976 — present

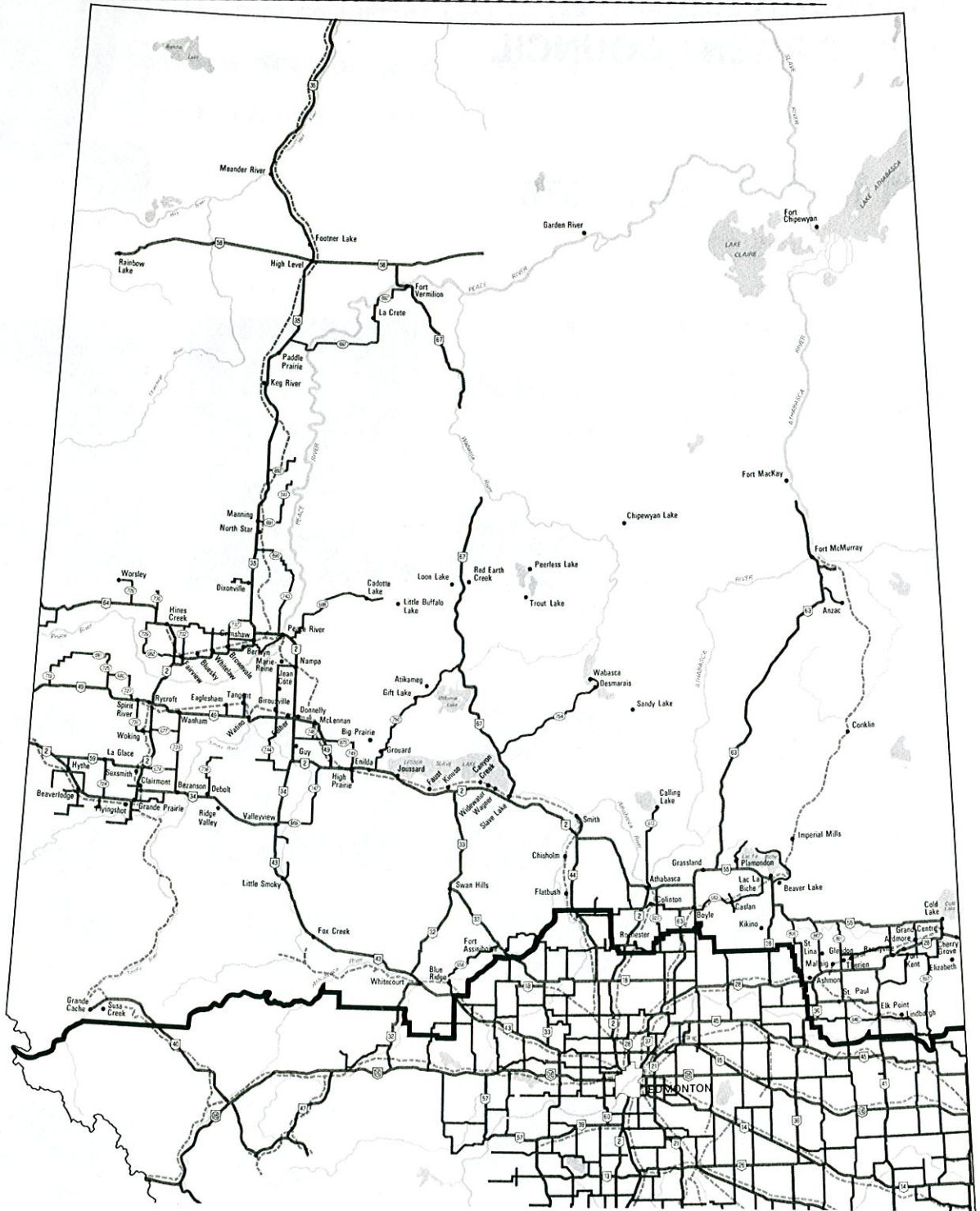


L. SHABEN, MLA  
Lesser Slave Lake  
1975 — present



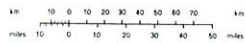
M. SNEDDON  
Fort McMurray  
1978 — present

# NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AREA OF JURISDICTION



## NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AREA

COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATION OVER 50 (1971 CANADA CENSUS)



NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

## NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

During 1977-78, the Northern Alberta Development Council held twelve meetings and received 66 briefs from the groups and individuals in attendance at the public meetings. Each brief submitted to Council was forwarded to the appropriate department or agency of government for consideration and comment. The departmental response was then reviewed by Council, and a decision made as to whether or not the department's position and/or action was appropriate. If the departmental response was felt to be inappropriate, the Council directed the Northern Development Branch to work with the responsible officials to achieve the necessary action. The originator of each brief was advised of progress made on the concerns expressed in his brief.

The results achieved by the Council varied greatly from brief to brief. In the majority of instances, the concerns raised were either totally or partially resolved. In some cases the Council and Branch are continuing to work towards a practical solution which is acceptable to all involved. The current status of any of the briefs submitted to Council since its reorganization in 1973 is available from the Northern Development Branch.

### Briefs Received, 1977-78

The briefs which were submitted to the Northern Alberta Development Council during 1977-78 were as follows:

#### May, 1977-Rainbow Lake

Brief #279 submitted by Improvement District 23 regarding Alberta Transportation programs

Brief #280 submitted by High Level regarding Hutch Lake development

Brief #281 submitted by High Level regarding financial assistance for paving

Brief #282 submitted by High Level regarding telephone service to Meander River and the policies of Northland School Division

Brief #283 submitted by Rainbow Lake regarding upgrading of Highway 58 and airport improvements

Brief #284 submitted by High Level regarding recreation grants

Brief #285 submitted by High Level regarding drainage problems

Brief #286 submitted by Rainbow Lake regarding education concerns

Brief #287 submitted by Rainbow Lake regarding RCMP service

Brief #288 submitted by High Level regarding propane prices

Brief #289 submitted by High Level regarding decentralization of government offices

Brief #290 submitted by High Level regarding education concerns

Brief #291 submitted by High Level regarding housing

Brief #292 submitted by Fort Vermilion regarding funding for Wayheman Waskayagan Village

Brief #293 submitted by McLennan regarding a proposed road link to the Reno area

#### June, 1977 - Trout Lake

Brief #294 submitted by the Isolated Communities Advisory Board regarding hunting, fishing and trapping regulations, internal roads, land claims, home care for the elderly, community pastures, and development of tourism

Brief #295 submitted by Fairview regarding loading restrictions on Highway 64

Brief #296 submitted by Fort Vermilion regarding quality of drinking water

Brief #297 submitted by the Isolated Communities Advisory Board regarding workshops on programs and services provided by government

Brief #298 submitted by Wabasca-Desmarais regarding land tenure and economic development

Brief #299 submitted by Fort Vermilion regarding tourism

Brief #300 submitted by Wabasca-Desmarais regarding land tenure

Brief #301 submitted by the Isolated Communities Advisory Board regarding internal roads at Chipewyan Lakes

Brief #302 submitted by the Isolated Communities Advisory Board regarding financial support from the Federal Department

Brief #303 submitted by the Isolated Communities Advisory Board regarding land claims

Brief #304 submitted by the Isolated Communities Advisory Board regarding tourism development at Peerless and Graham Lakes

July, 1977 - Westridge Lodge

Brief #305 submitted by Fort Vermilion regarding water quality

Brief #306 submitted by Kinuso regarding homestead lands

September, 1977 - Kinuso

Brief #307 submitted by Kinuso regarding Spruce Point Park

Brief #308 submitted by Kinuso regarding homestead lands

Brief #309 submitted by High Prairie regarding proposed industrial park

Brief #310 submitted by Faust regarding fluctuating levels of Lesser Slave Lake

Brief #311 submitted by Faust regarding sewer hookup for the Northwestern Fish Co-op

Brief #312 submitted by Wabasca-Desmarais regarding utilization of the development center

November, 1977 - Kikino

Brief #313 submitted by Kikino Métis Colony regarding housing, roads and forestry

- Brief #314 submitted by Caslan Métis Colony regarding roads, power lines, recreation, local history, land development, water wells, equipment for emergency services, and housing
- Brief #315 submitted by Lac La Biche regarding housing
- Brief #316 submitted by Lac La Biche regarding policing costs
- Brief #317 submitted by Lac La Biche regarding the proposed Lakeland Provincial Park
- Brief #318 submitted by Plamondon regarding a highway campsite
- Brief #319 submitted by Lac La Biche regarding roads
- Brief #320 submitted by Big Prairie Métis Colony regarding flooding of the Heart River
- Brief #321 submitted by Elizabeth Métis Colony regarding agriculture, roads, road signs, power lines, recreation, emergency services, business development, postal services, special constables and local history
- Brief #322 submitted by Fishing Lake Métis Colony regarding roads, local government, water control, agriculture, recreation, power lines, emergency services, local history, newsletter, postal services, nuisance grounds, adult upgrading, business development, and social programs
- Brief #323 submitted by the Federation of Métis Settlements regarding development of natural resources
- Brief #324 submitted by the Federation of Métis Settlements regarding local government
- Brief #325 submitted by the Federation of Métis Settlements regarding natural gas systems
- Brief #326 submitted by Paddle Prairie Métis Colony regarding farm power rates
- Brief #327 submitted by Gift Lake Métis Colony regarding access road to Sandy Bay
- Brief #328 submitted by the Federation of Métis Settlements regarding local history
- Brief #329 submitted by the Federation of Métis Settlements regarding economic development



Brief #330 submitted by Lac La Biche regarding expansion of the Opportunity Corps program

Brief #331 submitted by Lac La Biche supporting all other briefs presented during Kikino meeting

Brief #332 submitted by Smoky Lake regarding land annexation, roads and parks

December, 1977 - Edmonton

Brief #333 submitted by Rainbow Lake regarding health services

Brief #334 submitted by Fort Vermilion regarding road link to Fox Lake

January, 1978 - Edmonton

Brief #335 submitted by Fort Vermilion regarding Highway 67

February, 1978 - Grimshaw

Brief #336 submitted by Berwyn regarding the new Planning Act

Brief #337 submitted by Alberta Trappers' Central Association regarding compensation for damaged traplines

Brief #338 submitted by Grimshaw regarding medical facilities, employment opportunities, decentralization of government services, and education facilities

Brief #339 submitted by Hythe regarding toll free telephone calls

Brief #340 submitted by Peace River regarding further education

Brief #341 submitted by Peace River regarding sanitary landfill sites, Manning airstrip and proposed road link to Fort McMurray

Brief #342 submitted by Improvement District 23 regarding extra funds for road construction

March, 1978 - Edmonton

Brief #343 submitted by Fairview regarding vacancy rate in Provincial Building

Brief #344 submitted by Slave Lake regarding Highway 67

Brief #345 submitted by Lac La Biche regarding the archaeological excavation of a proposed construction site

### Economic Development of Northern Alberta Position Paper

In February, 1978 the Northern Alberta Development Council publicly released a position paper concerning the economic development of Northern Alberta. The position paper attempted to expand upon and complement Council's Goals for Programs document, described earlier in this report. The rationale for the paper is found in Council's governing Act, which states that Council's purpose is "to investigate, monitor, evaluate, plan and promote practical measures to foster and advance general development in Northern Alberta, and to advise the government thereon...". The paper was debated in the Legislature during the 1978 Spring Session.

A copy of the paper is available from the Northern Development Branch; and a brief outline is included below:

#### Introduction

The purpose of the document and Council's role in addressing the northern economy are discussed. References are made to the economic differences between Northern and Southern Alberta: lower incomes, higher cost of living and construction, etc. The Premier's key remarks made at the Opportunity North Conference (Peace River, November, 1975) are quoted concerning the choice northerners must make regarding government involvement.

## Part 1: The Philosophy of Northern Economic Development

This section discusses the fundamentals involved in a proposed economic development strategy for the North:

1. Economic Goals for Northern Alberta: The Meaning of Balanced Growth - the importance of maintaining a unique quality of life in the North, while at the same time promoting balanced and orderly economic growth.
2. Strengths and Weaknesses in the Northern Economy - strengths of the North include resources, transportation corridors, opportunity, etc. Economic weaknesses include costs, infrastructure, small market concentrations, transportation distances, etc.
3. The Role of Government - by being a major land owner government can influence development through regulations and techniques designed to create a healthy economic climate.

## Part 2: Nature and Application of Development Tools

This section provides a more specific description of the techniques Council feels government should employ to assist northern economic development. It describes four main areas of program possibilities:

1. Technical Support - mostly through resources of government staff and expertise.
2. Research and Development - expertise provided through government funds to provide feasibility research for potential industry.
3. Infrastructure - the location of industry is influenced by the infrastructure available; as infrastructure is provided there is more likelihood that industry relocations will occur.
4. Financial Incentives - the loan is the basic incentive plan recommended by Council. However, there are situations when grants, special projects and tax incentives may apply, if the social and economic gains merit the special government program. Established businesses should not be damaged by specific industries which may require initial assistance.

## Conclusion

The main concerns of Council are re-emphasized: economic disparities and costs of establishing an economic base in the North. Northerners themselves have a responsibility to explicitly state their real needs in a co-ordinative fashion, while at the same time not making endless demands upon the public purse. Government can assist in the development in partnership with the efforts and planning of Northern Alberta residents.

The document concludes by asking for reaction and feedback to the ideas and suggestions of the Council.

## Northern Alberta Development Council Student Bursary Program

Traditionally the number of Northern Alberta students attending post-secondary institutions has been far below the provincial average. The Northern Alberta Development Council recognized the need to encourage northerners to take up professional and technical training, in order that the North could be served by people familiar with the unique characteristics of the area.

The Province approved the establishment of the NADC Student Bursary Program in the summer of 1974. The program was designed to provide assistance to northerners to allow them to enter post-secondary institutions, as well as to provide an incentive to attract the educated northerner to return to the North upon completion of his or her formal training.

The program, developed in close consultation with Alberta Advanced Education and Manpower, is administered through the Students Finance Board of that department. Bursaries are awarded under the direction of a Selection Committee comprised of four representatives from the Northern Alberta Development Council, and one representative each from the Students Finance Board, the Métis Association of Alberta, and Advanced Education and Manpower.

At present, married students or those with dependents can qualify for up to \$4,000 of support, and single students for up to \$2,500 of support per academic year. The actual amount of each bursary is determined by the Selection Committee, taking into account such factors as need and the priority which is placed on the training being obtained. In general, students are expected to offer one year of service in a remote area of the province for each year of bursary support received. The remote area of the province is defined as that area under the jurisdiction of the Minister Responsible for Northern Alberta (see map on page 12).

During 1977-78, 132 students received bursary assistance totalling \$312,285. Of this amount, \$120,375 was disbursed to returning students, and \$191,910 to first year bursary recipients. Seventy-eight students are registered in the Faculty of Education and twenty-five in the medical or para-medical field. Others are studying business education, veterinary medicine, engineering, forestry, telecommunications, commercial cooking and law.

Bursary support is also provided to native students enrolled in the Morningstar Program at Blue Quills. This program enables native people to teach after two years of university level studies. Participants are then allowed an additional five years to complete their Bachelor of Education degree, usually during spring and summer sessions.

#### Visit to the Yukon and Northwest Territories

During August 16-19, 1977 members of the Northern Alberta Development Council travelled to Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Hay River in an attempt to maintain and strengthen ties with Canada's two northern Territories. The purpose of the visit was to provide for an information exchange between Council and the Territorial Government representatives; to build a sense of understanding and to share knowledge concerning mutual interests and common problems faced by both parties involved.

Upon their arrival in Whitehorse on August 16, the members of the Council were greeted by Honorable Flo Whyard, Executive Committee Member responsible for Health, Welfare and Rehabilitation. The next day, Commissioner Arthur M. Pearson and Mrs. Whyard led a delegation of Yukon Territorial Government officials who explained various aspects of government structure and Territorial priorities. Discussion revolved around such points as the pending land claims issue, transportation, tourism, local government and resource development. A luncheon hosted by the Yukon Territorial Government followed.

That evening a banquet, presided over by Honorable R. W. Dowling and Mrs. Whyard, welcomed many guests from the business community of Whitehorse, and other groups and organizations. An open question period explored the role of the Northern Alberta Development Council and brought forward many proposals for co-operation between Alberta and the Yukon.

On the morning of August 18, the Council travelled to Yellowknife and was greeted by Honorable Peter Ernerk, Executive Committee Member responsible for Economic Development and Tourism in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Ernerk escorted the Alberta delegation to a luncheon hosted by the NWT, after which frank and interesting discussions were conducted with the assembled Executive Committee. In attendance were Stuart Hodgson, Commissioner of the NWT; John Parker, Deputy Commissioner; Mr. Ernerk; Arnold McCallum, Executive Member responsible for Education; and David Nickerson, Executive Member responsible for Social Development.

After preliminary and general discussion, the party split into two groups for more specific talks with officials of the NWT. Mr. Dowling led the group concerned with economic development, transportation and tourism; while Mr. Shaben headed the contingent interested in recreation, education and local government.

During the evening a banquet hosted by the Northwest Territories was attended by prominent businessmen and senior officials of the NWT Government, as well as Commissioner Hodgson and all members of the Executive Committee.

On August 19 the Council flew to Hay River, Northwest Territories to be welcomed by Mayor Don Stewart, and absorb an interesting tour of the town and Northern Transportation Company Ltd.'s operation. A barbecue, hosted by the Mayor and featuring fresh pickerel fillets, provided an enjoyable conclusion to the northern tour.



NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

## NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

As part of the Department of Business Development and Tourism, the Northern Development Branch helps to promote the departmental objectives of:

- diversification of the economic base,
- optimum resource upgrading,
- balanced regional growth,
- expansion of existing business,
- travel planning and development, and
- socio-economic growth of the North.

The main task of the Branch however, in terms of allocation of staff time and resources, is supplying technical and administrative support services to the Northern Alberta Development Council.

The Branch is divided into two main components: Program Development and Program Co-ordination. The Program Development Section provides the analysis and planning function for Northern Alberta socio-economic improvements. Basic research is performed and background and position papers prepared in support of the Council and the Branch in its monitoring role in the North. Examples of major projects undertaken during 1977-78 include:

- Commercial Fishing Industry Review
- Isolated Communities Secretary-Treasurers Project
- Cold Lake Baseline Study
- Northern Housing Review
- Review of Government Activity in Isolated Northern Communities
- Analysis of Briefs Presented to NADC, 1973-78.

During the past year, one of the major interdepartmental activities of the Program Development Section involved chairing the Human System Scientific Advisory Committee of the Alberta Oil Sands Environmental Research Program (AOSERP).

The Program Co-ordination Section of the Branch is responsible for providing administrative and technical support to the Northern Alberta Development Council, including all arrangements for monthly meetings, follow-through on briefs, and implementation of Council motions. Implementation of the Alberta North Agreement with DREE is a second major activity of this Section. During 1977-78 the activities of the Interim Alberta North Agreement were successfully concluded with the signing of a five-year, \$55 million long term Agreement in Fort Vermilion on February 8, 1978. A summary of projects undertaken during 1977-78 is contained on the following pages, and a complete report detailing all activities under the Interim Agreement from April 1, 1974 to March 31, 1978 is available from the Northern Development Branch. The Program Co-ordination Section is also involved with monitoring and facilitating various government activities to achieve maximum benefits for the citizens of Northern Alberta.

ALBERTA NORTH INTERIM SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENT

## ALBERTA NORTH INTERIM SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENT

The Alberta North Interim Subsidiary Agreement was successfully concluded with the signing of a \$55 million long-term Agreement in Fort Vermilion on February 8, 1978 between the Province of Alberta and the Government of Canada. Interim Alberta North was an enabling agreement which allowed for the development of appropriate programs beneficial to Northern Alberta within provincial line departments. Operational from April 1, 1974 to March 31, 1978 the Interim Agreement resulted in an expenditure of over \$14 million, cost-shared equally between the Province of Alberta and the Federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion. During 1977-78, projects with costs totalling \$5,534,131 were approved.

The Opportunity Corps program, implemented by Alberta Social Services and Community Health, operated in selected communities throughout Northern Alberta. Projects were specially designed with the intention of providing services not available through Canada Manpower or other related government services. Employing disadvantaged people, the Opportunity Corps program sought to provide them with basic life and work skills and orientation counselling in order to encourage community betterment through self-identification of needs and self-help.

The Corps operated in three areas: Janvier, Lesser Slave Lake and Fort Chipewyan/Fort Vermilion. At Janvier, participants in the program landscaped the school yard, renovated the Corps workshop, erected fencing for Alberta Housing and Public Works, and engaged in driver training.

In the Lesser Slave Lake area the Corps was active in many communities. At High Prairie the Detox Center was completed, the day care center renovated, and the swimming pool painted and repaired. At Slave Lake the Native Friendship Center and the playground at Widewater were completed, the Town Office and firehall were repaired, and the Dump Road and the Lions Campground were cleaned up. At Little Buffalo and Cadotte Lake workers participated in community clean ups, driver training programs, and fencing projects. At Calling Lake posts and rails were peeled for school fencing, homes of senior citizens were renovated, and two skating rinks constructed. Firehall renovations were undertaken at Wabasca-Desmarais, as well as construction of playground equipment, repairs to the nursing station, and the Recreation Board building. Numerous other projects were undertaken in other communities such as Peerless Lake, Trout Lake, Sandy Lake and East Prairie.

At Fort Chipewyan the Anglican churchyard was landscaped, brush was cut and piled, and repairs undertaken on the Northland School building and the nursing station. At Fort Vermilion the Corps constructed the Legion Hall addition, upgraded the Stampede Grounds, and renovated the curling rink at LaCrete.

In all locations, work experience was supplemented by counselling in life skills and guidance in specialized trade skills workshops.

The Employment and Relocation Counselling program of Advanced Education and Manpower continued to be an important element of the Interim Alberta North Agreement in 1977-78. The program was functional in Slave Lake, Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie, and

fourteen housing units were added to the 127 units already assigned. Not only were residents of isolated communities able to relocate to towns with job opportunities, the program also stressed relocation from shanty areas to new homes within towns. Through all phases of the relocation, Cree-speaking counsellors were vital to the overall success of the program, and their efforts alleviated many of the potential problems resulting from relocation to a new environment.

The project's initial implementation emphasized relocating older, larger families to the growth centers, but it soon became evident that adaptation to a new environment proved too difficult for these families, who had already developed structured lifestyles. The program now prefers applicants who are younger and possess relatively more education. This establishes a strong basis for success, and encourages other families to take advantage of the program.

The Northern Development Branch continued to support a local government experiment in each of the seven member communities of the Isolated Communities Advisory Board (Loon Lake, Peerless Lake, Trout Lake, Little Buffalo, Cadotte Lake, Chipewyan Lake, and Sandy Lake). The Branch provided funds to pay the salaries of a secretary-treasurer for each community. Assistance to help meet travel expenses was also offered to residents of Northern Alberta in some cases so that they could attend public meetings of the Northern Alberta Development Council.

The purpose of the Northern Water Supply program, implemented by Alberta Environment, was to provide a source of potable water in

unorganized northern communities where residents did not possess the finances to build wells. Since the program was initiated, 265 wells have been provided, of which 165 are still in use. During 1977-78 water treatment plants were completed at Paddle Prairie, Little Buffalo, Calling Lake and Wabasca. As well, a field training program on required maintenance and repair of the wells for the recipients was implemented.

The Northern Electrification Program provided electrical services to isolated northern communities under the guidance of the Northern Alberta Electrification Committee. House wiring and distribution systems were completed and protective equipment installed during 1977-78. Alberta Transportation upgraded and paved arterial roads in Fort Chipewyan to complement modern airstrip facilities. The Land Tenure Secretariat continued to resolve long standing land residency grievances in Alberta's northern "Green Zone," and to promote orderly growth in isolated communities.

During 1977-78, Alberta Housing and Public Works initiated two programs which were intended to meet the needs of families living in isolated areas where conventional housing was not practical or affordable. The Isolated Communities Log Housing Program and the Waskayigun (Métis Settlement) Housing Program provided accommodation reflecting northern lifestyles and utilizing local building materials as much as possible. Residents of the participating communities were involved in planning, building and training for home construction.



Internal roads in the isolated communities and Métis Settlements were upgraded by Alberta Transportation. This program will continue until the standard of surface transportation in these communities is comparable to the systems in less isolated communities of a similar size. The office of the Northeast Alberta Regional Commissioner prepared a community plan for Anzac, and combined with Alberta Social Services and Community Health to fund a study of health and social conditions in Northeast Alberta.

The Northern Development Branch made a contribution to the Beaver Lake Parka Manufacturing project to ensure the cash flow essential for continuous operation, and enabled high quality garments to be marketed profitably at competitive prices. Funds supplied by the Regional Development Branch and the Northern Development Branch, combined with funds raised by northern municipalities and groups, enabled the formation of four regional economic development councils:

- Lac La Biche Regional Economic Development Council
- Northwestern Regional Economic Development Council
- Lesser Slave Lake Western Regional Development Board and
- Smoky River Regional Development Board.

These projects are intended to expand the economic base of the region and broaden participation in the process of regional development.

The Northern Development Branch again assisted the Alberta Trappers' Central Association in order that the organization could recruit new members in the isolated areas of Northern Alberta and expand the distribution of their monthly journal.

The Opportunity Corps participated in projects which could lead directly into community development opportunities in disadvantaged areas. At Janvier, Fort Vermilion, Fort Chipewyan and the Lesser Slave Lake region, Corps workers manufactured furniture, constructed canoes, and learned how to operate sawmills. The Northern Development Branch supplied funds to the Dove Center, a vocational training center for the handicapped in Bonnyville, for the purpose of purchasing shop equipment. Two studies financed by the office of the Northeast Alberta Regional Commissioner investigated community attitudes and problems present in Fort MacKay and the feasibility of implementing a bus service from Fort MacKay to the Syncrude site. The Fort Chipewyan Co-op Store received special assistance of \$150,000 from the Native Secretariat to construct a new retail sales area.

In the Planning and Management sector of the Agreement, the Branch prepared inventory and data base studies to aid in finalizing the long term Agreement. The Northern Development Branch and Alberta Education collaborated on the Education North Project, which is intended to localize curriculum content without compromising provincial standards and orient teachers to northern people and ways of life.

The following is a listing of projects authorized for cost-sharing under the Interim Alberta North Agreement in 1977-78.

	<u>Authorized Amount</u>	<u>DREE Commitment</u>
Sector Three: Planning and Management		
<u>Program 3.1: Planning and Management</u>		
3.1.8 Alberta North Planning	26,000	13,000
3.1.9 Education North Project	56,000	28,000
3.1.10 Planning and Management (Fort Vermilion)	10,000	5,000
Sector Three Total:	92,000	46,000
CUMULATIVE TOTAL:	5,534,131	2,767,065

2.636

Northern Development RESOURCE CENTRE
Rec'd.
Author
Main Class.
X-Ref. ALTA. GOVT. ↑
NORTHERN DEV. BRANCH
Locational