

*The Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) met in Grande Cache, AB, September 11 and 12, 2008, for its regular administration meeting and Regional Stakeholders Forum.*

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## Tour and Dinner Meeting

Council was given a guided bus tour of the Grande Cache Coal Corporation. Highlights included an up-close view of an open pit mine, and several fossilized dinosaur footprints.

An evening dinner and presentation was held with the Town of Grande Cache. Mayor Louise Krewusik's warm welcome was followed by a short presentation on the pressures facing the 39-year-old community. Mayor Krewusik shared the town's history and progress made since 2003.

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**Regional stakeholders presented on topics including: transportation, infrastructure, land use, rural development, labour, housing and agriculture.**

**Transportation:** Concern was expressed regarding the current condition of Highway 40 south of Grande Cache. Installing passing lanes, shoulders and pull-outs are necessary as Highway 40 remains a critical link to the community, as a tourism access route and is considered a worksite to area employees who travel it daily. The positive impact resulting from recent improvements to rail service, critical to industry, was mentioned. A new NAV Canada flight path was suggested as a way to improve air services to the area.

**Infrastructure:** The need for a new school to meet the educational requirements of the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation was addressed, along with the importance of local education options to help small communities' combat comparatively low high school graduation rates. The need for improved housing, water and waste water systems in the area were also mentioned.

**Land Use:** Difficulties regarding the acquisition of land and the bureaucracy associated with expansion permits were shared by both the community and industry.

**Rural Development:** Community Futures shared information on their new Rural Diversification Initiative that provides funding for partnership projects that benefit community and industry. Projects must be at least \$100,000.

**Labour & Housing:** The impact of wait times to process foreign and immigrant workers was a key issue. The need to fast track immigration for high demand occupations such as mining engineers was discussed. Lack of housing was cited as a critical issue in the recruitment and retention of workers. Council was updated on local efforts taking place to address housing pressures as well as trades training options for high school students through the local industry-education partnership program ELITE.

**Agriculture:** The growing importance of food tracking and purchasing local food products was discussed. An update on the work of the Branding the Peace initiative was given.

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## NADC Updates

### *Next Council Meeting*

Slave Lake - November 13 & 14, 2008.

### *NADC bursary values increasing next year*

A recent change in the bursary program's governing regulations will allow the bursaries to catch up with the rising cost of education. The NADC Bursary and Bursary for Pharmacy Students will be \$6,000 per year. Bursaries for Nurse Practitioner students are being raised to \$9,000 and students enrolled in medical school could receive \$12,000. Some of these bursaries could also be doubled through matching bursaries from sponsors.



Check out the website at [www.benorth.ca](http://www.benorth.ca)

### *New Staff Members*

The NADC welcomes Mel Kuprowsky and Cynthia Arku to the Lac La Biche office. Mel brings extensive experience in the public sector, while Cynthia brings expertise in rural community development and land use planning.

Best wishes to Perry Woodward and Jennifer Bisley, Peace River office, who recently moved on to new opportunities outside the region.