

Members of the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) met in Wabasca-Desmarais, September 17th, 2009, for its regular administration meeting.

Tour and Dinner Meeting

The Council was greeted by MLA Pearl Calahasen, who welcomed the Council to her constituency of Lesser Slave Lake. The group was taken on a guided bus tour of the community of Wabasca. Tour highlights included the Northern Lakes College and St. Theresa School Day Care facilities, the Wabasca Water World recreation complex, and the new medical complex and doctors' housing duplex, among other new infrastructure projects under construction in the area.

Council attended a dinner meeting hosted by the M.D. of Opportunity No. 17. and was welcomed to the community by the Chief Administrative Officer, Harvey Prockiw. Following the dinner, a presentation was made regarding current planning and capital projects developing in the region, as well as challenges facing the current M.D. Council.

Highlighted challenges included: the lack of a local financial institution, high cost of transportation of goods and people, poor road connections between communities, no rail or scheduled public transportation options and expensive/intermittent, internet and cellular service.

The M.D. Council discussed their innovative physician recruitment model, including details regarding the remuneration and housing arrangements for newly recruited physicians and their families. The development of new residential lots in the region, future recreational and cultural developments and the Housing Authority's new Granny Flats Project providing seniors access to affordable housing options were also discussed.

New Reports Released

The NADC Council approved the release of two new reports focusing on *Municipal Infrastructure* needs and a discussion paper on *Developing Northern Alberta*.

The *Municipal Infrastructure Survey* report was initiated to collect vital information on current and future municipal infrastructure needs across northern Alberta. The report outlines the overall situation and current and future infrastructure requirements for northern Alberta municipalities as identified by the municipal jurisdictions.

The discussion paper *Developing Northern Alberta: Northern Challenges, Assets and Opportunities* outlines key strategies to ensure that industry and businesses in northern Alberta are poised to lead the province and the country into eventual recovery and come out of the downturn in a stronger position.

Both these reports, as well as the updated *Economic Contribution of the NADC Region to the Province*, will be available through the NADC website, www.nadc.gov.ab.ca.

NADC Updates/ Upcoming Events

- ✧ Thrive! Canada is back. The NADC will host its second positive youth development workshop in partnership with the RCMP October 22- 23, 2009 in Slave Lake. For more information contact Natalie Butler at natalie.butler@gov.ab.ca or 780-624-6350.
- ✧ The next Northern Elected Leaders Meeting will be in High Level, December 4, 2009.
- ✧ The next NADC Meeting will be held in Edmonton, December 10-11, 2009.
- ✧ Growing the North: A Community Economic Development Conference hosted by the County of Grande Prairie, Farm Credit Canada and the NADC is happening January 21-22, 2010, Evergreen Park, Grande Prairie. Contact Carla Loree at the County of Grande Prairie, 780-532-9722 for more information.
- ✧ The 2009 Challenge North Proceedings Report is now online! Visit www.nadc.gov.ab.ca to download your copy. A copy has been mailed to all conference delegates. NADC is integrating the priorities brought forward during the conference into its business plan, to actively address many of the issues identified and will provide yearly updates on its progress between the 2009 Challenge North Conference and the next Challenge North Conference in 2012.
- ✧ The NADC will be looking for four members for a three year term beginning April 2010. Watch northern newspapers for more information in the coming months.

NADC contact information:

Phone: 780-624-6274 Peace River Office or
780- 623-6982 Lac La Biche Office
(dial 310-0000 first for toll free access)
Email: nadc.council@gov.ab.ca
Website: www.nadc.gov.ab.ca

The goals of the Northern Alberta Development Council are to establish priorities for northern opportunities, increase awareness and support among government and key stakeholders for those priorities, and advance skill levels of northern Albertans. The Council is mandated to advance the general development of northern Alberta and advise government of opportunities and issues.