

# *Progress Report– January 2017*



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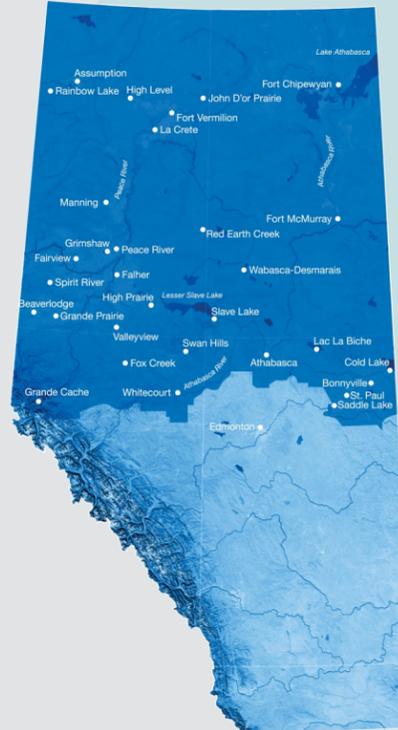
Northern Alberta  
Development Council (NADC)



## Members and Organization

Members of the Water North Coalition (WNC) currently represents over 50 municipalities, and water and wastewater organizations across the north. The WNC meets four times annually in **rotating locations across the north** to exchange information, hear from experts, discuss common challenges, and collaborate on solutions for water and wastewater management. The actions of the Coalition are advanced through its general membership and four subcommittees: **Advocacy, Public Education, Training, and Recruitment and Retention**, each of which has a chairperson and an active work plan linked to the Coalition's three year Strategic Plan.

- **Voting membership** is open to all northern municipalities, First Nations, and Metis Settlements within the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) Boundary.
- **Non-Voting membership** is open to water/wastewater commissions, professionals, provincial/federal government, rural water co-ops, owners and operators.
- **2017-18 : Chair**, Mr. Bob Marshall, County of Grande Prairie;  
**Vice-Chair**, Mr. Ray Skrepnek, M.D. of Fairview.



## Message from the Chair

On behalf of our members, I am pleased to provide an update on the progress of the WNC. The Coalition is actively advancing its mission to ensure sustainable water and wastewater systems are available to every northern community. I am proud of the work of the Coalition to create a plan of action to achieve this goal. Together we are excited to build on our achievements of the past two years and to move into a new phase of growth for the Coalition.

Looking forward, we will expand our collaborative network and build our regional voice. The WNC will engage with new partners, build the capacity of our subcommittees, and grow our municipal, First Nation, and Metis representation across the north. We invite every northern community to join us and support sustainable water and wastewater management.

Yours truly,

Bob Marshall, WNC Chair  
Councillor for County of Grande Prairie

*The WNC is supported through the administrative and strategic expertise provided by the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC), whose mandate is to advance the social and economic development of the north and to advise government through Alberta Economic Development and Trade.*

## 2014

- Upon conclusion of the Closer to Home (C2H) Initiative, northern stakeholders anticipated that a water and wastewater forum would be valuable.
- October: **Initial meeting** of stakeholders in Grande Prairie.
- December: Formation of the Coalition in Peace River.
- Adoption of **Terms of Reference**.

## 2015

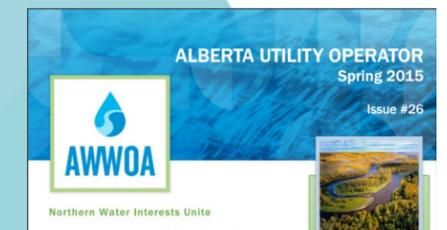
- February: **First official meeting** of the WNC in Slave Lake.
  - WNC partners with NADC to conduct a Needs Assessment of the northern region to inform the work of the new Coalition.
- June: WNC members meet in Lac La Biche.
  - Results of the **Northern Alberta Water and Wastewater Needs Assessment** are shared. Members confirm intention to formalize a Strategic Plan for the Coalition.
  - Members hear presentations on Drinking Water Safety Plans and Alberta Urban Municipalities Water Initiatives.
- October: **Strategic Planning Session** in Wembley
  - Members identify several priority areas and actions.
- December: WNC members meet in Faust.
  - Members adopt the three year **Strategic Plan** and hear presentations from Careers Next Generation on water and wastewater student initiatives and Source Water Protection Planning through the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance.

## 2016

- March: AWWOA Seminar, Banff
  - **WNC members present** to water and wastewater operators and municipalities on the Coalition and the value of collaboration for the north.
- April: WNC members meet in Athabasca.
  - **Four Subcommittees are officially formed:** Advocacy, Public Education, Recruitment and Retention and Training.
- June: WNC members meet in Mackenzie County – La Crete.
  - A representative from Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) is appointed to the Coalition by Hon. Shannon Phillips.
  - AEP and Alberta Health Services (AHS) give presentations. As a result, **WNC members advocate** for the development of an online operator database through AEP; and for revised AHS communication protocols and timelines around bacteriological testing and response time to water and wastewater operators.
- October: WNC members meet in Grande Prairie.
  - WNC connects with the Alberta Utilities Stakeholder Group to share information and build advocacy efforts.
  - Alberta Water Council presents Water Literacy Survey Findings with a focus on the northern response.

## WNC Online

- WNC information and reports, meeting dates and presentations are online at [www.nadc.ca](http://www.nadc.ca)
- The WNC has been featured in the AWWOA Spring 2015 Newsletter, and the Fall 2016 Western Canada Water (WCW) Magazine, as well as on their website.



## 2017

- January: Members meet in the MD of Greenview – Valleyview.
  - Presentations on Hydraulic Fracturing and Watershed Management are shared.
  - **Subcommittees provide updates on emerging initiatives** in water literacy, and resources for municipalities including mutual aid templates and information resources.