



# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

An e-newsletter from Northern Alberta Development Council, sharing key updates on initiatives, engagements and advice on the north.

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## Message from the Chair

Greetings to our northern residents, communities and leaders,

I am pleased to have recently been appointed Chair of the NADC! A true northerner, born and raised in Whitehorse, I moved 'south' to Grande Prairie where I live, raise my family, and contribute to the entrepreneurial and community spirit that makes the north a unique and vibrant place.

Since becoming Chair, I have met with Hon. Tanya Fir, Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism to discuss the NADC's role as an advisor to government, and the north's role in unlocking Alberta's future economic prosperity. My role as Chair is to work with the Council to align our actions with government priorities, and connect our northern partners, communities and leaders to further the economic development in our region. Council understands that in order to have positive economic development, the right social conditions must also be in place.

Our members met together on December 9, 2019 in Peace River and re-affirmed our commitment to being a voice for our northern communities and facilitating opportunities for northern leaders to connect with government. I brought an update on Council's first meeting to our Premier, Cabinet and Caucus colleagues, and I look forward to engaging throughout the north in the coming weeks and months to understand where the NADC can best play a role in supporting development through input on government policies and programs. A key government priority is reducing red tape, therefore, I will be approaching Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction, Hon. Grant Hunter, regarding the potential to host a Red Tape Reduction Panel for the north to ensure concerns across social and economic sectors are identified and shared with government. More details will be forthcoming in the new year.

I invite stakeholders to connect with the Council through our Peace River office at [nadc.council@gov.ab.ca](mailto:nadc.council@gov.ab.ca) or 780-624-6432. Our members will meet again in February and will be attending the Growing the North Conference in Grande Prairie. We look forward to engaging in some conversations around what we can do to lead Alberta's economic recovery, and share the innovative, collaborative and uniquely transformative approaches to growth and community capacity building that are happening daily across our northern region.

I wish you all a joyous holiday season and best wishes for the new year.

Tracy Allard, Chair

MLA for Grande Prairie



## NADC 2018-19 Annual Report



The Annual Report includes information on our region, broadband and flax research initiatives, a summary of the Northern Leaders' Summit, and our bursary program's successes. The report outlines key accomplishments achieved through our many collaborative partnerships on health, education, forestry, water, municipal, and economic development issues.

Read the full report [here](#) to find out how NADC has contributed to building and developing a stronger Alberta through a stronger north in the past year!

## 2020 Northern Workforce Survey

NADC will launch the 2020 Northern Workforce Survey in the new year to inform NADC's bursary program and to identify in-demand and difficult-to-recruit occupations, and recruitment and retention challenges facing employers in the north. The survey will be sent via email to selected businesses and organizations within the NADC region. Target respondents are business owners and human resources professionals responsible for hiring and recruiting employees. Should your organization/business be selected to participate, we greatly appreciate your input and thank you in advance for your participation. This information is valuable in supporting our understanding of the challenges related to workforce development in the north.



## Labour Education Applied Research North - IT Study

Labour Education Applied Research North (LEARN) is undertaking a research project on *Information Technology Related Skills and Training Needs in Northern Alberta*. With this study, LEARN wants to understand the regions' IT related skills and training needs in the light of recent rapid changes and advancements in the IT field, thereby strengthening the ability of northern post-secondary institutions to prepare for the future needs of students, communities, and industries. The project partners are currently reviewing the foundational analysis of the study. The final report is expected by February 2020.

LEARN is a collaboration between the NADC and four northern Alberta post-secondary institutions (Grande Prairie Regional College, Keyano College, Northern Lakes College, and Portage College).

Please visit the [NADC website](#) to learn more about LEARN and the past research projects.

## Bursary Program Updates

Applications for NADC Bursary for the 2020-21 academic year will be available on our website in early January 2020. **Application Deadlines** April 30, 2020

Applications for the NADC First Nations, Métis and Inuit Bursary for the 2020-21 academic year will be available in early February 2020. **June 15, 2020**

All individuals who have applied for the Northern Student Teacher Bursary or the second selection of the First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Bursary will be advised of their application status in early January 2020.

Please visit the [NADC website](#) for more information on our bursaries.



## Northern Alberta Elected Leaders Meeting

Northern Alberta Elected Leaders (NAEL) held a meeting in August in Bonanza, hosted by Saddle Hills County. NADC member Jeannette Danks, NAEL Chair Jim Rennie, Vice-Chair Leanne Beaupre, and 32 representatives from across the northwest were in attendance. Special guest, MLA Todd Loewen attended, along with virtual attendance by Ethan Bayne, Assistant Deputy Minister of Municipal Assessment and Grants Division, and Steve White, Executive Director, Assessment Services Branch, Alberta Municipal Affairs, who delivered a presentation on Alberta's Shallow Gas Tax Relief Initiative and Assessment Model Review. Member discussions and updates covered topics including: Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks and Municipal Property Tax Incentives; the Town of Peace River's appeal to Canada Revenue Agency's GST audit and reassessment; experiences of the 2019 wildfire season; and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities annual conference. NAEL members also discussed opportunities to raise awareness of the north with government colleagues.

The next NAEL meeting will be hosted in the Town of Sexsmith in January.

For more information on NAEL, please visit the [NADC website](#).



## Water North Coalition Meetings



The Water North Coalition held three meetings in May, July, and October. The M.D. of Opportunity hosted the May meeting in Wabasca, with Acting NADC Chair Ken Noskey and 43 Coalition members in attendance. Professor Leland Jackson of the University of Calgary delivered a presentation outlining wastewater treatment technologies that remove existing and emerging contaminants and how wastewater can be used as a potential resource. Tanya Hunter, Team Lead, Water and Wastewater with Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) also provided updates on the ongoing work conducted through the partnership of WNC and AEP.

Birch Hills County hosted the July meeting in Kakut Lake. NADC council member Cody Bearisto attended and Becky Devaleriola, coordinator for Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) in Northern Sunrise County, provided an introduction to the ALUS program which partners with producers to improve air and water quality, and biodiversity. There were 37 Coalition members in attendance at this meeting.

Aquatera hosted the October WNC meeting in Grande Prairie and provided a tour of its water and wastewater facilities. MLA for Grande Prairie, Tracy Allard, gave a welcome address on behalf of her constituency and spoke of the importance of the success of the water and wastewater management in northern Alberta. Kristen Andersen, Senior Environmental Scientist with Associated Environmental, delivered a presentation to members on how bioengineering and building resilience in watersheds can repair erosion and provide source water protection. There were 37 Coalition members participating in this meeting.

The Coalition has been working with Alberta Environment and Parks on water operator training requirements and ensuring that water treatment plants are safely operated with qualified staff. The Coalition also gained two new members in 2019 – Athabasca Watershed Council and GWST Water and Environmental Inc.

For more information on the Water North Coalition, please visit the [NADC website](#).

## Upcoming Meetings

Mark your calendars or connect with us for details on these upcoming meetings and events!

	WNC Meeting
	January 16, 2020, Teleconference
	NAEL Meeting
	January 2020, Town of Sexsmith
	NADC Administrative Meeting
February 2020	
NADC will be at the Annual Growing the North Conference	
February 19-20, 2020, Grande Prairie	

## About the NADC

The Northern Alberta Development Council is a provincial government agency that investigates northern Alberta's economic and social development priorities, programs, and services. Council provides advice and recommendations to the Government of Alberta. Please visit the [NADC website](#) for more information on the Council.

## Stay Connected

Like and follow us on Facebook and Twitter! For more information about the NADC or the region please visit our website, or e-mail us at [nadc.council@gov.ab.ca](mailto:nadc.council@gov.ab.ca).



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