



Northern Developments

Glen Clegg Appointed to Boundaries Commission

The former Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for the Dunvegan Constituency, Glen Clegg, has been appointed to the Electoral Boundaries Review Commission by the Provincial Government. Mr. Clegg will bring a northern perspective to this important issue.

Michael Procter, a Council member noted, "The review of the provincial electoral boundaries will be very important to northern Alberta, especially in terms of ensuring effective representation at the provincial level."

The Electoral Boundaries Review Commission will be holding public meetings across the province to gather input on the proposed electoral divisions. The meetings will begin on May 27, 2002.

National Forest Week Luncheon

A past-Chair of the Northern Alberta Development Council will be one of the guest speakers at the Mackenzie Forest Education Society's *National Forest Week 2002 Luncheon*. The luncheon will be held at the Dave Shaw Memorial Complex located in the Village of Hines Creek. Sustainable Resource Development Minister Mike Cardinal will be a guest speaker along with the President and CEO of the Canfor Corporation, David Emerson. Gary Friedel, the current Chair of the Council, will be in attendance as well.

Mr. Friedel noted, "The stature of speakers like Minister Cardinal and Mr. Emerson at this annual event, emphasizes the importance of the work that the Society is doing." Tickets for the May 10th luncheon can be obtained by contacting Tom Baldwin at 780-624-6274.

Swan Hills Mayor Appointed To NADC

Gary Pollock, the Mayor of the Town of Swan Hills, has been appointed by the Provincial Government to the Northern Alberta Development Council. His term officially began on April 1, 2002.

The Honourable Pearl Calahasen, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development said, "Mr. Pollock brings a wealth of experience to Council, as well as strong commitment to northern Alberta. His background is diverse having been involved in such areas of interest as municipal government, economic development, wildlife management, community planning and tourism."

Council Chair Gary Friedel, the MLA for Peace River concurred with Minister Calahasen. He said, "I have had several opportunities to work with Mr. Pollock in the past and I know that he will be an excellent addition to the Council."

In reaction to his appointment, Mayor Pollock said, "I was pleased to learn of my appointment to Council, as it is an organization that I have a keen interest in. More importantly, it will provide me with an excellent opportunity to assist with the advancement of northern Alberta." Mayor Pollock will be attending his initial meeting as a Council member during the first week of May 2002 in the City of Grande Prairie.

Council members Art Avery, Doris Courtoreille, Sandra Cardinal, Berkley Ferguson, Ernie Isley, Pete Merlo, Michael Procter and Al Toews were re-appointed to Council.

NADC Chair Thanks Gerald McIvor

Gerald McIvor's term as a member of the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) finished at the end of March 2002. Gerald attended his last NADC meeting in Athabasca.

According to NADC Chair Gary Friedel, Gerald will be missed. Mr. Friedel noted, "Gerald provided excellent leadership during his tenure as a Council member and Vice-Chair. He was committed to seeing northern Alberta realize its great potential and was always available to represent the Council." Fellow member Ernie Isley said, "It was a pleasure for all of us to work with Gerald and benefit from his expertise in many areas." Gerald was a member of the NADC for four years.

Seminars for ...

Employment/Business Opportunities

The Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) hosted two Opportunities Seminars in Valleyview and Athabasca in March 2002. The seminars brought together community leaders, and representatives from industry, business, education and those seeking business and employment opportunities.



Paddy Meade, Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development addresses the Employment/Business Opportunity Seminar in Valleyview and Athabasca in March 2002.

Approximately 60 participants at each Seminar heard presentations from local businesses as well as representatives from the oil and gas industry, forestry, agriculture and tourism representatives. The Seminars provide information on employment, training, business skills and options to enhance career opportunities.

Paddy Meade, Deputy Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development was the keynote speaker at both of the Seminars. She spoke about the Aboriginal Policy Framework, recently adopted by the Alberta Government, as well as the role of northern Alberta in the economic development of the province.

"The Opportunities Seminars are an excellent forum for networking between community leaders in business, industry and education and those looking for opportunities in the NADC region," says Sandra Cardinal, Council member who also moderated the seminar in Athabasca. "The Seminars are targeted

towards Aboriginal communities and population in northern Alberta, but are open to anyone seeking information on business and employment opportunities," she adds.

The NADC sponsors Seminars throughout northern Alberta as part of their Business Plan. Over the past three years, Opportunities Seminars were held in High Level, Slave Lake and Bonnyville. For more information on the regional Opportunities Seminars, please contact the NADC office in Lac La Biche at 780-623-6982.



*Shannon Armitage,
Coordinator of the
Aboriginal Business Service
Network.*

Council makes changes to Northern LINKS

Council approved a number of changes to the *Northern LINKS* program at their regular meeting on March 7 and 8, 2002 in Athabasca.

Emphasis for the *Northern LINKS* program is now on students in Grades 9 - 12, as youth are now making decisions about post secondary education at an earlier age. In addition, the maximum amount of funding available for projects is now \$40,000 per project.

Art Avery, Council member and Chair of the Selection Committee said, "Through these changes to the Northern LINKS program, we are trying to ensure that more communities in the north have access to these opportunities. We also encourage more partnerships from applicants."

Northern LINKS funds projects that ease the transition for northern Alberta students to their post-secondary education. LINKS is in its third year of funding projects such as campus tours, peer mentorship, career fairs and orientation sessions. Applicants include schools, community organizations, post-secondary institutions, Metis settlements and First Nations communities.

Deadline for applications is April 30th, 2002 and October 30th, 2002 for projects in the Fall and Winter. Applications are available online at www3.gov.ab.ca/nadc. For more information on the program, please contact Terry Vulcano, Senior Northern Development Officer at 780-624-6275.

Alberta Meets NWT For Co-Chairs' Meeting

The co-chairs for the Alberta-Northwest Territories Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation and Development met on April 11-12, 2002 in Edmonton. The Alberta Co-Chair is the Honourable Pearl Calahasen, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, and the Co-Chair for the Northwest Territories is the Honourable Vince Steen, the Minister of Public Works and Services, as well as the Minister of Community and Municipal Affairs. Gary Friedel, Chair, Northern Alberta Development Council, and the Honourable Jake Ootes, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment for the Government of the Northwest Territories, were in attendance as well.

Minister Calahasen was very pleased with the outcome of the meeting. She noted, "We were able to address a wide range of subjects of mutual interest to both jurisdictions. Minister Steen and I agreed to have our officials work on the preparation of a three-year action plan that will act as a framework for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding." The Co-Chairs will be recommending to their respective Premiers and Cabinets a five-year extension to the Memorandum of Understanding, due to expire in 2004.

The Northern Alberta Development Council acts as the Government of Alberta's Secretariat for this Memorandum of Understanding. The purpose of the Memorandum is to provide a framework for Alberta and the Northwest Territories to co-operate on developing in such areas as transportation, tourism, education, economic development and trade.

NCDC Board Meets in Alberta

The Northwest Corridor Development Corporation's Board of Directors met in Edmonton on April 24-25, 2002. Their meetings included a reception for key decision-makers in Alberta, including business, industry and government leaders. While in Edmonton, they also met with Members of the Legislative Assembly from northern Alberta and several Cabinet Ministers.

According to Corporation Chair, Jeff Burghardt, it was important for the organization to come to Alberta. "Alberta is a key player in the promotion of *The Northwest Corridor* and makes a valuable contribution to the activities of the Corporation. By holding these meetings, our Directors were able to hear, first hand, the thoughts of Alberta representatives on the future growth of the Corridor," commented Mr. Burghardt.

The Northern Alberta Development Council acts as an advisor to the Corporation's Board of Directors. The mandate of the organization is to advance the use and development of Canada's *Northwest Corridor*.

NADC Bursary Deadline

Application deadline for **NADC Bursaries** is May 15, 2002. Over 100 bursaries of \$3,000 are available each year to Alberta students. In exchange for the bursary, students agree to live and work in a field related to their training in northern Alberta. Recipients must be a resident of Alberta for the last three years and be within two years of graduating from a full-time post secondary program. Applications for the **NADC Bursary** are available at all northern Alberta high schools and Aboriginal communities, plus all Alberta colleges, universities and Career Development Centres and Canada/Alberta Service Centres.

Alberta based businesses and community organizations can also co-sponsor bursaries through the **Bursary Partnership Program** with the NADC. The deadline for the **Partnership Bursary** depends on the sponsors. For more information on bursaries, refer to the Northern Alberta Development Council website at www3.gov.ab.ca/nadc or contact Carol Vesak, Bursary Coordinator at 780-624-6545.

Here's How to Reach Us

Northern Alberta Development Council
2nd Floor, Provincial Building, Bag 900-14
Peace River, AB T8S 1T4
Tel: 780/624-6274 (toll free dial 310-0000)
Fax: 780-624-6184

Lac La Biche Office: 15 Nipewon Road
P.O. Box 1650 Tel: 780/623-6982
Lac La Biche, AB Fax: 780/623-6984
T0A 2C0

Email: nadc.council@gov.ab.ca

Visit the Northern Network!
www3.gov.ab.ca/nadc



Opportunity North project....NADC addresses recruitment challenges

Opportunity North is your connection to Alberta's north. The Northern Alberta Development Council recently produced recruitment and promotional materials to address the challenges of recruiting and retaining workers in northern Alberta.

The website, **opportunitynorth.ca** - **your connection to Alberta's north**, features graphic images, statistics and links to information on the employment, lifestyle and economy of northern Alberta. The Opportunity North materials, including the website, CD-ROM, brochure and business cards are designed to support northern employers who need to recruit people to the region. The Council would like employers in northern Alberta to feature the logo and website in their recruitment campaigns.

"I think the Opportunity North project is excellent," said Doris Courtoreille, Council member. "Even though I live in the north, I didn't realize all of the opportunities here. With all of this new technology, it was definitely time to do a project like this one. The materials produced with the Opportunity North project will benefit the entire region."

The concept for this project started at a meeting in April 2001 when Health Region human resources managers and heads of nursing programs identified the need for northern Alberta recruitment materials. A cross sector steering committee with representatives from a health region, college, industry, tourism, municipality and the provincial government, worked with the Northern Alberta Development Council to generate ideas and to outline a framework for the materials.

Marjorie Dietz, Director of Human Resource Services for Northern Lakes College and one of the committee members, says she will use the materials in their recruiting campaigns. "I had high hopes for this project and they came true," she said. "We're experiencing such difficulty recruiting staff to the north so this project is very timely. It was action taken and followed through."

Renee Murin, Human Resources Generalist with Suncor in Fort McMurray and one of the committee members, understands the challenges of recruiting and retaining employees. "We do try and recruit locally, but if not then we do it through career fairs," she stated. "The **opportunitynorth.ca** website will be very useful for one-stop shopping and will link everything together for recruiting."

The **opportunitynorth.ca** website will be officially launched at the *Northern Alberta Human Resources Management Conference* in Fort McMurray on October 21-23, 2002. The website will be maintained by the Northern Alberta Development Council and more links to employers and photos will be added over time. Samples of the CD-ROM, brochure and business cards will be sent out to all project contributors, northern communities, public employers and other major employers. For more information and for logo use guidelines, please contact Audrey DeWit, Senior Northern Development Officer at 780-624-6342.

