

# MACKENZIE COUNTY

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 6, 2012

10:00 A.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
FORT VERMILION, AB



**MACKENZIE COUNTY  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

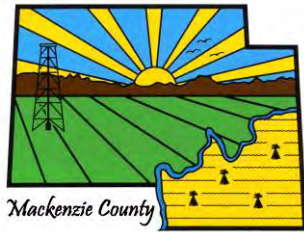
**Tuesday, November 6, 2012  
10:00 a.m.**

**Fort Vermilion Council Chambers  
Fort Vermilion, Alberta**

**AGENDA**

			Page
<b>CALL TO ORDER:</b>	1.	a) Call to Order	
<b>AGENDA:</b>	2.	a) Adoption of Agenda	
<b>ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:</b>	3.	a) Minutes of the October 30, 2012 Regular Council Meeting	5
<b>DELEGATIONS:</b>	4.	a) AAMDC Member Visit (11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)	
		b) Shirley Rechlo, Vice-President - Golden Range Society (1:30 p.m.)	19
<b>GENERAL REPORTS:</b>	5.	a) CAO Report	23
		b)	
<b>TENDERS:</b>	6.	a) None	
<b>PUBLIC HEARINGS:</b>	7.	a) None	
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES:</b>	8.	a)	
		b)	
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES:</b>	9.	a)	
		b)	

<b>OPERATIONS:</b>	10.	a)		
		b)		
		c)		
<b>PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT:</b>	11.	a)	Bylaw 878-12 Road Closure lying west of SW 36-104-14-W5M and NW 25-104-14-W5M (Hog Barn Agreement) (Savage Prairie)	33
		b)		
		c)		
<b>ADMINISTRATION/ CORPORATE SERVICES:</b>	12.	a)	Northwest Corridor Development Corporation	41
		b)	Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Survey	43
		c)	AAMDC Fall Resolutions	59
		d)		
		e)		
		f)		
<b>INFORMATION / CORRESPONDENCE:</b>	13.	a)	Information/Correspondence	111
<b>IN CAMERA SESSION:</b>	14.	a)	Legal <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seniors Housing</li></ul>	
		b)	Labour	
		c)	Land	
<b>NEXT MEETING DATE:</b>	15.	a)	Regular Council Meeting Wednesday, November 28, 2012 10:00 a.m. Fort Vermilion Council Chambers	
<b>ADJOURNMENT:</b>	16.	a)	Adjournment	



## MACKENZIE COUNTY REQUEST FOR DECISION

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>November 6, 2012</b>
<b>Presented By:</b>	<b>Joulia Whittleton, Chief Administrative Officer</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Minutes of the October 30, 2012 Regular Council Meeting</b>

### **BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:**

Minutes of the October 30, 2012 Regular Council meeting are attached.

### **OPTIONS & BENEFITS:**

### **COSTS & SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That the minutes of the October 30, 2012 Regular Council meeting be adopted as presented.

Author: C. Gabriel Review by: \_\_\_\_\_ CAO \_\_\_\_\_



**MACKENZIE COUNTY  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, October 30, 2012  
10:00 a.m.**

**Fort Vermilion Council Chambers  
Fort Vermilion, Alberta**

**PRESENT:**

Bill Neufeld	Reeve
Walter Sarapuk	Deputy Reeve (arrived at 10:04 a.m.)
Jacque Bateman	Councillor
Peter F. Braun	Councillor
Elmer Derksen	Councillor
Dicky Driedger	Councillor
John W. Driedger	Councillor
Odell Flett	Councillor (left at 3:41 p.m.)
Eric Jorgensen	Councillor (arrived at 10:13 a.m.)
Lisa Wardley	Councillor

**ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Joulia Whittleton	Chief Administrative Officer
John Klassen	Director of Environmental Services & Operations
William (Bill) Kostiw	Director of Infrastructure Development & Government Relations
Byron Peters	Director of Planning and Development
Carol Gabriel	Manager of Legislative & Support Services
Caitlin Smith	Administrative Assistant

**ALSO PRESENT:** S/Sgt. Tom Love, Fort Vermilion RCMP  
Garth McCulloch, GENIVAR  
Mark Onaba, GENIVAR  
Members of the public and the media.

Minutes of the Regular Council meeting for Mackenzie County held on October 30, 2012 in the Fort Vermilion Council Chambers.

**CALL TO ORDER: 1. a) Call to Order**

Reeve Neufeld called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**AGENDA: 2. a) Adoption of Agenda**

**MOTION 12-10-719**

**MOVED** by Councillor Derksen

That the agenda be approved as presented.

- 12. f) Elected Officials Education Program
- 12. g) Sharepoint

**CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF  
PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

**3. a) Minutes of the October 9, 2012 Regular Council Meeting**

**MOTION 12-10-720**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the minutes of the October 9, 2012 Regular Council meeting be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3. b) Minutes of the October 24, 2012 Organizational Council Meeting**

**MOTION 12-10-721**

**MOVED** by Councillor Flett

That the minutes of the October 24, 2012 Organizational Council Meeting be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**DELEGATIONS:**

**4. a) None**

**GENERAL REPORTS:**

**5. a) Municipal Planning Commission Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION 12-10-722**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the Municipal Planning Commission meeting minutes of September 6, 2012 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**TENDERS:**

**6. a) None**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**7. a) None**

**MOTION 12-10-723**

**MOVED** by Councillor Flett

That Council move in-camera at 10:02 a.m. to discuss the

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



enhanced policing contract.

**CARRIED**

Deputy Reeve Sarapuk joined the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Councillor Jorgensen joined the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

**MOTION 12-10-724**

**MOVED** by Councillor D. Driedger

That Council move out of camera at 10:18 a.m.

**CARRIED**

**COMMUNITY  
SERVICES:**

**8. a) La Crete Residential Waste Pickup Update**

**MOTION 12-10-725**

**MOVED** by Councillor Bateman

That the La Crete residential waste pickup update be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 12-10-726**

**MOVED** by Councillor Bateman

That Council move in-camera at 10:23 a.m. to discuss the Highway 88 Connector and Zama Access contracts.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 12-10-727**

**MOVED** by Councillor Jorgensen

That Council move out of camera at 10:57 a.m.

**CARRIED**

Reeve Neufeld recessed the meeting at 10:57 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES:**

**9. a) None**

**OPERATIONS:**

**10. a) Policy PW004 Winter Road Maintenance/Snow Plow  
Flag Policy**

**MOTION 12-10-728**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That Policy PW004 Winter Road Maintenance/Snow Plow Flag policy be referred to administration and the Public Works Committee for review.

**CARRIED**

Reeve Neufeld recessed the meeting at 11:57 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

**10. b) Water Management – New Lands**

**MOTION 12-10-729**

(Requires 2/3)

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the water management for new lands be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**10. c) New Lands Access – Fish Bearing Streams (Little Buffalo)**

**MOTION 12-10-730**

**MOVED** by Councillor Braun

That the new lands access for fish bearing streams be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**10. d) Resource Road Funding Applications**

**MOTION 12-10-731**

**MOVED** by Councillor Jorgensen

That Council continues lobbying to have the Zama Access and Highway 88 Connector roads designated as primary highways and immediate upgrading.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 12-10-732**

**MOVED** by Councillor Braun

That Council meets with Genivar to review the draft Resource Road applications, discuss options, and strategies during the AAMD&C Convention in November.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED**

**10. e) Bill C-38 – Fisheries Act**

**MOTION 12-10-733**

**MOVED** by Councillor Derksen

That the Bill C-38 Fisheries Act update be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT:**

**11. a) 41-SUB-12 Brenda May Friesen and Fibre-Pro Enterprises Ltd. Part of SE & SW 13-106-14-W5M & Plan 052 0937, Bl 2, L 2 (La Crete Rural)(Direct Control)**

**MOTION 12-10-734**

**MOVED** by Councillor J. Driedger

That the Municipal Planning Commission's recommendation to Council be for the APPROVAL of Subdivision Boundary Adjustment 41-SUB-12 in the name of Brenda May Friesen and Fibre-Pro Enterprises Ltd. on SE 13-106-14-W5M and Plan 052 0937, Block 2, Lot 2 be APPROVED with the following conditions.

1. This approval is for a subdivision boundary adjustment, adding 0.64 ha (1.58 hectares) to Plan 052 0937, Block 2, Lot 2 and reducing the remainder of the quarter by 1.83 acre (0.74 hectare) maintaining a total of 128.69 acres (52.08 hectares) in total.
2. Applicant/developer shall enter into a Development Agreement with the Mackenzie County which shall contain, but is not limited to:
  - a) Prior to any development on the proposed subdivision, the developer shall obtain a development permit from the Municipality.
  - b) Provision of access to the subdivision and the balance of the lands on both quarters in accordance with Mackenzie County standards at the developer's expense.
  - c) All sewage disposals shall conform to the Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice 2009.
  - d) **Provision of a storm water management plan. Contact Planning and Development staff at 780-**

**928-3983 to discuss the requirements for your subdivision.**

- e) Any outstanding property taxes are to be paid on the land proposed to be subdivided prior to registration.
- f) Provision of utility right-of-way as required by ATCO Electric, Telus and Northern Lights Gas and others.
- g) Provision of and negotiations for utility rights-of-way and/or easements as required by utility companies. The Developer shall be responsible for any line relocation or correction costs that occur as a result of this development. Responses from utilities companies are shown in Schedule "C" hereto attached.

**CARRIED**

**11. b) Development Statistics Report 2012 - January to September and Comparison Chart**

**MOTION 12-10-735**

**MOVED** by Councillor Bateman

That the Development Statistics Report 2012 – January to September be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**ADMINISTRATION/  
CORPORATE  
SERVICES:**

**12. a) Bylaw 876-12 Procedural Bylaw**

**MOTION 12-10-736**  
Requires 2/3

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That second reading be given to Bylaw 876-12 being the Procedural Bylaw for Mackenzie County.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 12-10-737**  
Requires 2/3

**MOVED** by Deputy Reeve Sarapuk

That third and final reading be given to Bylaw 876-12 being the Procedural Bylaw for Mackenzie County.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 12-10-738**

**MOVED** by Councillor Braun

That the following Policies be rescinded:

- Policy ADM008 Recording Devices at Meetings
- Policy ADM022 Two-Thirds Majority Vote
- Policy ADM034 Distribution of Draft Council Minutes
- Policy ADM039 Role of Alternate Members on Committees

**CARRIED**

**12. b) Bylaw 877-12 Honorariums & Expense Reimbursements for Councillors and Approved Committee Members**

**MOTION 12-10-739**  
Requires 2/3

**MOVED** by Deputy Reeve Sarapuk

That second reading be given to Bylaw 877-12 being the Honorariums & Expense Reimbursements Bylaw for Mackenzie County.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 12-10-740**  
Requires 2/3

**MOVED** by Councillor Braun

That third and final reading be given to Bylaw 877-12 being the Honorariums & Expense Reimbursements Bylaw for Mackenzie County.

**CARRIED**

**12. c) Town of High Level Request for 2013 Capital Projects Funding**

**MOTION 12-10-741**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the Town of High Level Request for 2013 capital projects funding be deferred to the in-camera portion of this meeting.

**CARRIED**

**12. d) Zama Recreation Board – Capital Expenses**

**MOTION 12-10-742**  
Requires 2/3

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the 2012 Budget be amended by including an additional \$40,000 towards Zama Recreational Board capital expenses for the projects as approved in the 2010 budget with funding

coming from the Recreation Reserve – Zama.

**CARRIED**

**12. e) Financial Report – September 30, 2012**

**MOTION 12-10-743**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the financial reports for the period ended September 30, 2012 be accepted for information.

**CARRIED**

**12. f) Elected Officials Education Program (ADDITION)**

**MOTION 12-10-744**  
Requires Unanimous

**MOVED** by Councillor Jorgensen

That Motion 12-02-146 be amended to allow Councillors to participate in two in-class courses per year through the Elected Officials Education Program.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**12. g) Sharepoint (ADDITION)**

**MOTION 12-10-745**

**MOVED** by Deputy Reeve Sarapuk

That the Sharepoint discussion be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**INFORMATION/  
CORRESPONDENCE**

**13. a) Information/Correspondence**

**MOTION 12-10-746**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That administration draft a response to the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Survey for review by Council.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 12-10-747**

**MOVED** by Councillor Bateman

That the information/correspondence items be accepted for information purposes.

**CARRIED**

**IN CAMERA SESSION:**

**MOTION 12-10-748**

**MOVED** by Councillor Flett

That Council move in-camera to discuss issues under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Regulations 18 (1) at 2:05 p.m.

- 14. a) Legal
- 14. b) Labour
- 14. c) Land

**CARRIED**

Councillor Flett left the meeting at 3:41 p.m.

**MOTION 12-10-749**

**MOVED** by Councillor Braun

That Council move out of camera at 4:17 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**14. a) Legal – Inter-municipal Relationships – Regional Collaborative Governance Initiative**

**MOTION 12-10-750**

**MOVED** by Councillor Bateman

That the Regional Collaborative Governance Initiative engagement letter be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 12-10-751**

**MOVED** by Councillor Derksen

That the following Council members be appointed to the Inter-municipal Regional Collaborative Governance Committee:

Nominated/**Elected:**  
**Councillor Jorgensen**  
Councillor Wardley  
**Councillor Bateman**  
**Councillor J. Driedger**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 12-10-752**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the ballots be destroyed.

**CARRIED**

**14. a) Legal – Inter-municipal Relationships – Town of Rainbow Lake**

**MOTION 12-10-753**

**MOVED** by Councillor Jorgensen

That the CAO send a letter to the Town of Rainbow Lake CAO in response to the October 16, 2012 letter as discussed, with a copy to both Councils.

**CARRIED**

**14. a) Legal – Inter-municipal Relationships – Town of High Level**

**MOTION 12-10-754**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the Finance Committee's update regarding their meeting with the Town of High Level Council representatives be accepted for information and that Administration be authorized to proceed as discussed.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 12-10-755**

**MOVED** by Councillor Bateman

That a letter be sent to the Town of High Level regarding its 2013 capital project request accepting the list of the 2013 projects as qualifying projects for cost sharing under the Regional Service Sharing Agreement, and requesting that the final list of the 2013 projects be provided based on the Town's final, balanced and ratified 2013 operating and capital budgets.

**CARRIED**

**14. a) Legal – Inter-municipal Relationships – Seniors Housing**

**MOTION 12-10-756**

**MOVED** by Councillor J. Driedger

That the seniors housing be tabled to the November 6, 2012

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Council meeting.

**CARRIED**

**14. a) Legal – Highway 88 Connector & Zama Access Road Contracts**

**MOTION 12-10-757**

**MOVED** by Deputy Reeve Sarapuk

That the Highway 88 Connector and the Zama Access Road contracts be received information.

**CARRIED**

**14. b) Labour - AUPE Negotiations**

**MOTION 12-10-758**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the AUPE negotiations results be accepted as presented and that administration proceed with signing the new negotiated agreement.

**CARRIED**

**14. b) Labour - Enforcement**

**MOTION 12-10-759**

**MOVED** by Councillor Bateman

That the RCMP be notified regarding the County's intent to reduce the two enhanced policing positions for La Crete and area to one position and negotiate the renewal of the agreement for the remaining position for a three year term commencing July 1, 2013 and that the new agreement be reviewed and ratified by Council.

**CARRIED**

**14. b) Labour – Out of Scope Contracts**

**MOTION 12-10-760**

**MOVED** by Councillor Jorgensen

That the pay grid for out-of-scope personnel be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 12-10-761**

**MOVED** by Councillor J. Driedger

That qualifying out-of-scope personnel receive the same cost of living adjustment as negotiated for unionized personnel retroactive to January 1, 2012 and a movement on the pay grid subject to a successful annual performance evaluation.

**CARRIED**

**14. c) Land – Access to Plan 0023789, Block 01, Lot 01**

**MOTION 12-10-762**

**MOVED** by Councillor Bateman

That the access to Plan 0023789, Block 01, Lot 01 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**NEXT MEETING  
DATE:**

**15. a) Regular Council Meeting**  
Tuesday, November 6, 2012  
10:00 a.m.  
Fort Vermilion Council Chambers

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**16. a) Adjournment**

**MOTION 12-10-763**

**MOVED** by Councillor Jorgensen

That the meeting be adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

**CARRIED**

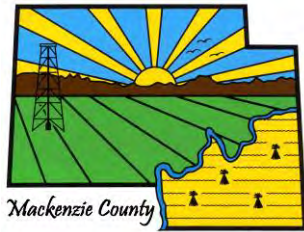
These minutes will be presented to Council for approval on November 6, 2012.

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Bill Neufeld  
Reeve

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Joulia Whittleton  
Chief Administrative Officer



## MACKENZIE COUNTY REQUEST FOR DECISION

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>November 6, 2012</b>
<b>Presented By:</b>	<b>Joulia Whittleton, Chief Administrative Officer</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>DELEGATION Golden Range Society (1:30 p.m.)</b>

### **BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:**

See attached for more information.

### **OPTIONS & BENEFITS:**

### **COSTS & SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

For discussion.

**Author:** C. Gabriel **Review by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CAO** \_\_\_\_\_



## MACKENZIE COUNTY MEETING NOVEMBER 6, 2012

Our local seniors' organization, officially known as The Golden Range Society of High Level, was formed in 1987 by a small group of seniors interested in having social activities relating specifically to them so that they could continue an active lifestyle. High Level Housing offered them the common area of the White Spruce Village as a gathering place for monthly pot luck suppers, birthday celebrations and meetings. The group has increased in size (now over 60) and the area at White Spruce Village has become too small. More than half of the membership of the Golden Range Society lives in the rural area.

One of the items on our mandate is "to provide a centre and suitable meeting place for the various activities of the seniors aged 55 and over, and their families". With this in mind, we have signed a long term lease agreement with the Town of High Level for a Seniors Centre in the Town Annex Building, more commonly known as the Old Medical Clinic. The building needed major renovations to make it useful. The Town of High Level made a major contribution towards this renovation. The Golden Range Society has taken on the project. Senior volunteers have spent 795 hours removing all inside walls, taking down the ceiling, tearing up the subfloor, and reconstructing interior walls. We have also refaced the north side of the building to feature the new entrance which is wheelchair accessible. The drywall is up, taping and mudding is in progress. The electrical is 70% done, heating is completely done and the plumbing is 50% complete. The flooring has been ordered.

Our goal is to keep seniors active to help retain their health. The schools have approached us to interact with students by sharing stories and activities. This centre will give us more room to do this. The children look forward to visiting with us. We expect to have the building open for a few hours several days a week. It will be run by senior volunteers.

We anticipate the building will be beneficial to the whole community. It will accommodate 100 people and have kitchen facilities. It is the only building of this kind in our local area that fully accommodates wheel chairs.

We have had great response from individuals and businesses. Many have approached us, asking us questions on the progress of the building, stating that they feel it is 'much needed'. There has never been a facility in the High Level area for local seniors to meet, nor a building suitable for those with mobility challenges. More seniors are remaining in the area than years ago. Although the organization will oversee the operation of the building, use of the building is NOT restricted to members.

We have received donations from businesses and individuals in the community:

-drywall value of approximately \$4,000

-plumbing & heating approximate value of \$8-10,000

-various cash and in-kind donations totaling approximately \$63,000

To complete this project we are asking the County for the following:

- \$25,000

-an annual donation of \$18,000 to help pay for maintenance and operating expenses

We value your input and will be happy to answer any questions.

Our current board consists of the following members:

President: Bruce Bieraugle

Vice President: Shirley Rechlo

Secretary: Carol Bieraugle

Treasurer: Margaret Payie

Directors: Vic Daradick

Sylvia Daradick

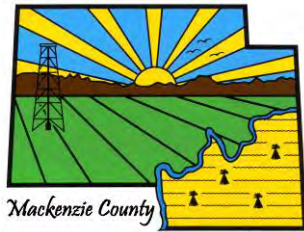
Roberta Brulotte

Anne Morris

Dale Wilson

Fay Rhoades

Bill Wiebe



## MACKENZIE COUNTY REQUEST FOR DECISION

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>November 6, 2012</b>
<b>Presented By:</b>	<b>Joulia Whittleton, Chief Administrative Officer</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>CAO Report</b>

### **BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:**

CAO and Director reports are attached for information.

### **OPTIONS & BENEFITS:**

### **COSTS & SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That the CAO report for November 2012 be received for information.

Author: C. Gabriel Review by: \_\_\_\_\_ CAO \_\_\_\_\_





# Mackenzie County

## Monthly CAO Report to Council – November 2012

The organization is busy with various ongoing operational programs, projects and initiatives. Public works personnel did a good job with addressing our unusual snow fall in mid October. The report provides highlights on some completed or ongoing initiatives.

1. **Organizational Structure & Personnel Update** – interviewed an individual for Director of Community Services & Operations and an offer of employment is being made, with projected start date early January 2013.
2. **AUPE Negotiations** – Completed.
3. **Infrastructure to New Lands** –We received letters from AB ESRD and AT in response to our July 23<sup>rd</sup> follow-up letters to the respective Ministers. The letters are not promising. Council needs to discuss further strategy and continue lobbying for financial assistance.
4. **Rural Road Development Policy** – a meeting was held with the Agricultural Land Use Planning Committee and the Agricultural Service Board with assistance from DCL Siemens regarding developing a draft policy for Council’s consideration. The next committee meeting is scheduled for November 19, with the intent to present the draft policy for Council’s consideration at the last meeting of November.
5. **Seniors Housing in the Region** – will be attending November 7 meeting in High Level with all local municipalities, groups and representatives from Municipal Affairs (housing).
6. **Regional Collaboration Initiative** (Towns of High Level and Rainbow Lake) –The Conditional Grant Agreement has been signed on behalf of the municipality. An engagement letter was drafted, reviewed by CAOs, and is being reviewed by participating councils (Mackenzie County Council approved it at their October 30<sup>th</sup> meeting).
7. **Land Use Framework** – both Towns accepted the County’s invitation to participate in the inter-municipal LUF committee and attended MMSA’s meeting in Manning. Byron Peters, Director of Planning & Development is assisting with the project on the administrative side. We are waiting for the revised draft. It will be appropriate for Council to schedule some time to review the final draft (currently Councillor Wardley and Greg Newman are participating in the MMSA led meetings).
8. **Wildfires** – the following costs have been identified so far for the three fires of the past summer:
  - a. Blue Hills - \$140,098.62
  - b. Wilson Prairie - \$191,210.35
  - c. Zama - \$1,215,837.30

Mackenzie County has submitted Disaster Recovery Program applications to AEMA (Municipal Affairs); some costs have been invoiced to ESRD as per the Mutual Aid Agreement. We were advised verbally that a recommendation was taken to the Minister regarding financial assistance for the July fires (Zama and Wilson Prairie). Blue Hills fire DRP is still under review.

9. **Fire Departments** – considering challenges and some shortfalls recognized during the past summer fire events, one of the County’s administrative priorities for the upcoming year will be to assist our volunteer departments with their training programs, reassess their needs and requirements. The County’s Emergency Response manual will be reviewed and revised as applicable to our current situation.
10. **2013 Budget** – the first meeting is scheduled for November 5; all departments have been working on their budgets for the past two months.
11. **Occupational Health & Safety** – three employees attended safety audit training. AMHSA’s instructor will be delivering a half day course in Fort Vermilion to the management team and supervisors.
12. **Organizational Meeting** – the committees’ terms of references were reviewed and revised as per Council’s direction (June/12), and were approved by Council at their latest organizational meeting. The procedural bylaw was substantially revised and a few policies were abolished (incorporated into the bylaw).
13. **Jubilee Park (La Crete)** – I had a meeting with a Jubilee Park representative and provided him with information regarding their chosen site – old Esso site on 100<sup>th</sup> street in La Crete (currently leased by Knelsen Sand & Gravel), as communicated to me by the Esso representative.
14. **La Crete Swimming Pool Committee** – I had a meeting with representatives of the Pool Committee and will work with them on preparing a package for presentation to Council that would contain all relevant and factual information regarding this proposed initiative.
15. **Winter Road Maintenance Policy** – the policy will be reviewed by the Public Works Committee and a recommendation will be presented to Council with intent to clarify hamlet and rural roads maintenance standards across the County.

Please review the attached Directors reports and we will be happy to answer any questions Council may have.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joulia Whittleton

## MONTHLY REPORT TO THE CAO

For the month of November 2012

From: John Klassen  
Director of Environmental Services & Operations

### Annual Operating Programs, Projects and Activities

Program/Activity/Project	Timeline	Comments
Operating Budget	November 2012	In Progress
Road Maintenance	Fall 2012	Graders are continuing to clear roads from the recent snowfall we received
Snow Removal Policy	Winter 2012/13	Reviewed the policy with PW's staff and the next step is to review it with the PW's Committee
Ice Bridge	Winter 2012/13	An ice bridge startup meeting was held on Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> with Alberta Transportation, Mackenzie County and the Contractor.

### Capital Projects

Projects	Timeline	Comments
Capital Budget	Nov 2012	In the development stage
Rural Water Line	September 2012	We are now supplying water from LC to the Blumenort Rd in order to provide adequate flow and pressure for the connection at that location and have 7 connections to that point and currently have 2 connections from the FV supply.
Rural Water Line Phase II	Oct, 2012	Project is in progress, the line is in the ground and the contractor is currently installing valves and flush stations.
88 Connector	October 2012	Winter shutdown meeting was held on November 1 <sup>st</sup> .
La Crete Lagoon Upgrade	2012/2013	Clearing & Grubbing is virtually complete and are in the process of conducting a Geotechnical investigation.

Capital Bridge Repairs	2012	BF-80938 & 80939 (88 connector) The bridge repair is now complete and ready for the next stage of road construction.

**Personnel Update:**

- John Krahn grader operator for the beat North of La Crete submitted his resignation with his last day of work being Nov 16<sup>th</sup>.
- We are continuing to interview applicants in order to fill the open equipment operator positions.

**Other Comments:**

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## MONTHLY REPORT TO THE CAO

For the month of November 2012

From: Byron Peters  
Director of Planning & Development

### Annual Operating Programs, Projects and Activities

Program/Activity/Project	Timeline	Comments
Leap frog development & business incentives	December/January	Have compiled info on these topics, need to be further evaluated and bring forward a recommendation to incorporate the changes into policies/bylaws
Business Licensing	January	Have compiled lots of info re. business licensing, now need to evaluate pros & cons and bring a recommendation forward

### Capital Projects

Projects	Timeline	Comments
Area Structure Plans	Summer 2013	Tender to be awarded early December
Community Infrastructure Master Plans	Summer 2013	Tender to be awarded early December
Rural Addressing	?	In progress. Jeff & Julius working on this project.
Airport Vicinity Protection Area	December/January	Need to complete final review and take to Council for approval

**Personnel Update:**

- The department is still looking for another development officer/planner, but otherwise we are fully staffed.
- The new additions (Dee & Sarah) are doing well. Dee has taken on lots of additional responsibilities helping Liane with development permits.

**Other Comments:**

- The ad-hoc LUF committee met on October 23 in High Level. We agreed on virtually all items discussed, and took our collaborative approach to the MMSA LUF position paper meeting in Manning on October 25. The meeting went well, with virtually all of our recommendations being agreed to by the other Lower Peace municipalities. The Lower Peace position paper will reflect our concerns and needs as a result.
- The Tompkins Fire Hall warranty period has expired, and a Final Acceptance has been issued (not my department, but was my project). Also, phone line has been installed.
- Several subdivisions will be issued Construction Completion Certificates within the next week or two (Northpoint, Pineridge, North Country Acres). Also need to issue Final Acceptance for Greenwood acres.
- Knelsen subdivision now has the playground installed. Need to issue Construction Completion Certificate for this as well.
- Sent Sarah for some safety codes training and to meet with Superior Safety Codes.
- I thoroughly enjoyed my week of vacation!
- Sarah is just getting started on some Community Investment Readiness projects. There is lots of info that is easy to compile that can be used to attract businesses to the area. Sarah will begin with compiling lots of this basic information, and creating a database of this info for each Hamlet (ie. Current permitted use industrial/commercial zoning, max water availability, sewer availability, access, developed lots available, population, tax rates, business types already in the community, etc.)

## **Monthly Report to CAO**

For the month of November 2012

From: William (Bill) Kostiw  
Director of Infrastructure Development and Government Relations / Acting  
Director of Community Services & Operations

The last several months have been very busy with staff training & recruitment, projects & conferences. We have been successful in recruiting staff for Planning & Development as well as the Community Services department which will enable us to better serve the ratepayers in all areas of the County. My focus for the next two months will be training in community services and pursuing large infrastructure projects.

### **Historical & Current Projects**

- The two resource road projects have been stalled by the early snow and the winter shut down is in effect. The resource road draft applications will be ready for Council perusal at the AAMD&C Convention.
- High Level East Project is still in progress and will continue until mid Dec 2012. The final work will then be complete in early 2013.
- Paving of the community projects in La Crete and Zama are also in winter shut down mode.
- Roads and surface water management to new lands is under review until we get further directions or money.
- Local bridge projects have been reviewed with A.T. and Genivar.
- The access to Plan 0023789 is progressing slowly and Focus promises completion by mid November 2012. (Hog Barn)

### **Future Projects & Events**

- Tompkins Ferry and new bridge studies are in the works and may be reviewed at the AAMD&C Convention or other A.T. meetings.
- Purchase of development lands from ESRD are slowly progressing. These lands are for municipal services.
- Landuse Framework – This review is ongoing and we need to keep the pressure on ESRD and other committees to ensure we don't get overloaded with environmental & ecological reserves as well as severe access restrictions. The results or

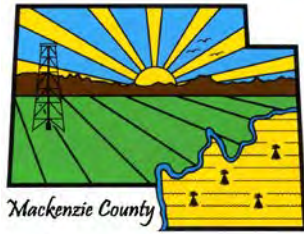
regulations that come from this process will certainly have far reaching effects on industry farming and general development.

- Rainbow Lake/Fort Nelson connector road project is gaining attention and credence. This project was highlighted at the NCDC northern roads conference in Prince Rupert, at the economic development summit in Grande Prairie as well as the T.A.C. Conference.
- Fort Vermilion Research facility – We are working to assist MARA to obtain a long term agreement with Ag Canada.
- Economic Development projects that we are endeavoring to assist are:
  - I. Footner OSB Mill
  - II. Mustus Energy
  - III. Atco Power Lines
  - IV. CO<sub>2</sub> EOR
  - V. Trans Canada Pipeline
  - VI. Athabasca Oil

Thank you for reviewing these items and I would be pleased to provide more info or answer questions.

Handouts will be provided.





## MACKENZIE COUNTY REQUEST FOR DECISION

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>November 6, 2012</b>
<b>Presented By:</b>	<b>Byron Peters, Director of Planning and Development</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Bylaw 878-12 Road Closure lying west of SW 36-104-14-W5M and NW 25-104-14-W5M (Hog Barn Agreement) (Savage Prairie)</b>

**BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:**

Bylaw 878-12, being a Road Closure Bylaw for the closure of a statutory road allowance lying west of SW 36-104-14-W5M and NW 25-104-14-W5M for the purpose of sale and consolidation with the adjacent lands.

**OPTIONS & BENEFITS:**

The portion of road in question is the undeveloped road allowance running on the west side of SW 36-104-14-W5M and NW 25-104-14-W5M adjacent to a creek that feeds the Bear River.

The request to close this portion of road allowance is part of the Hog Barn Agreement to provide a legal access road to the hog barn property. In this agreement, the County would close this portion of undeveloped road allowance which would be consolidated with the adjacent quarter sections.

All road closure Bylaws must receive a Public Hearing prior to being sent to Alberta Transportation for approval. The subject Bylaw will be presented to Council for second and third reading after it has been signed by the Minister of Transportation.

**COSTS & SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

Costs will be borne by Mackenzie County.

**Author:** L. Lambert                      **Reviewed by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CAO** \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That first reading be given to Bylaw 878-12, being a Road Closure Bylaw for the closure and sale of the Government Road Allowance lying west of SW 36-104-14-W5M and NW 25-104-14-W5M, subject to public hearing input.

Author: L. Lambert Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ CAO \_\_\_\_\_

**BYLAW NO. 878-12**

**BEING A BYLAW OF  
MACKENZIE COUNTY  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA**

**FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLOSING A  
STATUORY ROAD ALLOWANCE IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH SECTIONS 22, 24 AND 606 OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT,  
CHAPTER M-26, REVISED STATUES OF ALBERTA 2000**

**WHEREAS**, Council of Mackenzie County has determined that the statutory road allowance, as outlined on Schedule "A" attached hereto, be subject to a road closure, and

**WHEREAS**, notice of intention of the Council to pass a bylaw will be published in a locally circulated newspaper in accordance with the Municipal Government Act, and

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Council of Mackenzie County does hereby close, for the purpose of sale and consolidation, the government road allowance described as follows, subject to the rights of access granted by other legislation or regulations:

1. All that portion of Government Road Allowance lying west of SW 36-104-14-W5M  
Excepting thereout all mines and minerals and the right to work the same.
2. All that portion of Government Road Allowance lying west of NW 25-104-14-W5M  
Excepting thereout all mines and minerals and the right to work the same.

READ a first time this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

---

Bill Neufeld  
Reeve

---

Joulia Whittleton  
Chief Administrative Officer

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

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Minister of Transportation

Approval valid for \_\_\_\_\_ months.

Bylaw 878-12  
Road Closure lying west of SW 36-104-14-W5M  
and NW 25-104-14-W5M (Savage Prairie)

Page 2 of 3

READ a second time this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

READ a third time and finally passed this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

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Bill Neufeld  
Reeve

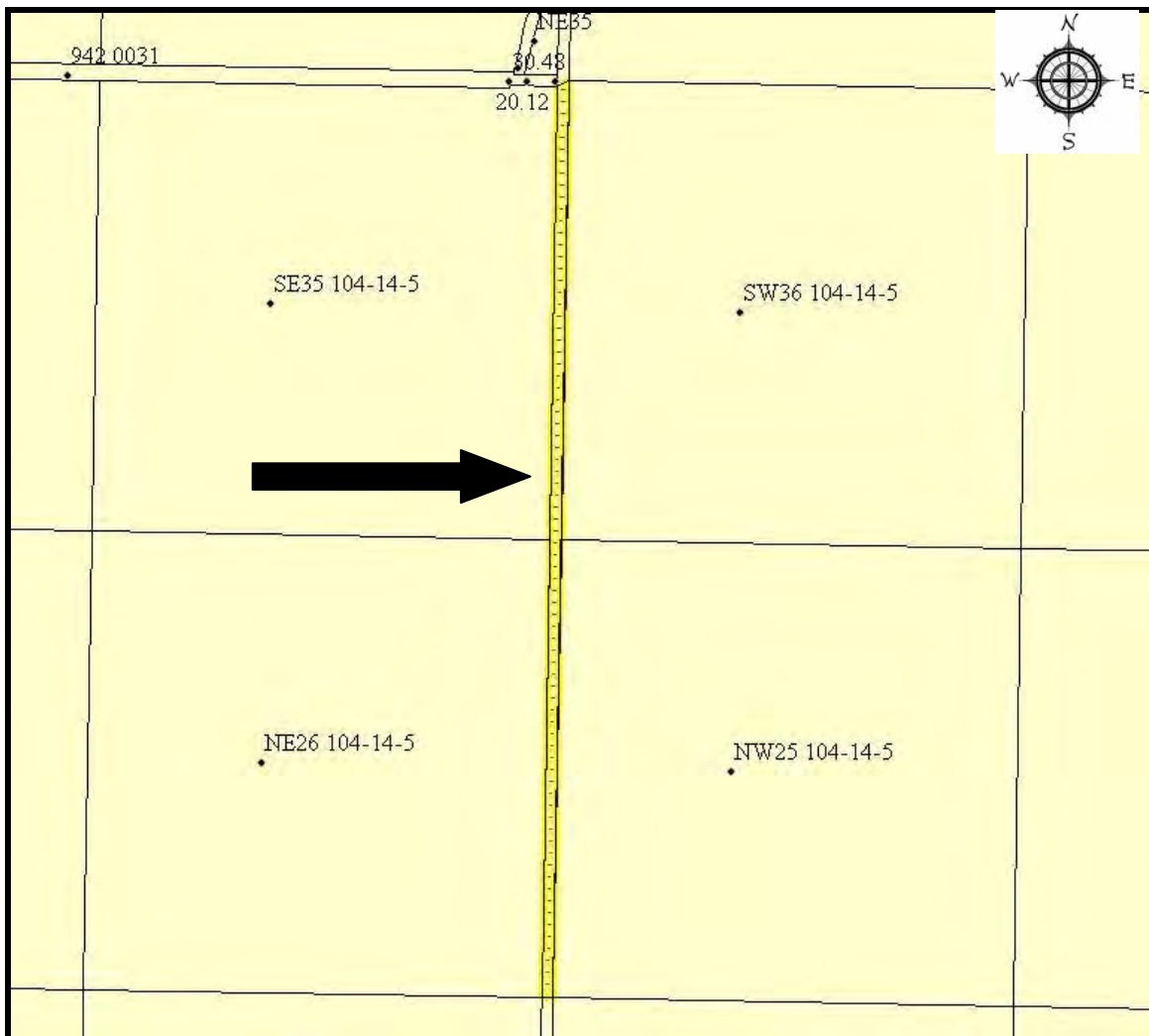
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Joulia Whittleton  
Chief Administrative Officer

**BYLAW No. 878-12**

**SCHEDULE "A"**

1. That the land use designation of the following property known as:
  1. All that portion of Government Road Allowance lying west of SW 36-104-14-W5M & NW 25-104-14-W5M





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30.43

14-5

SE35 104-14-5

SW36 104-14-5

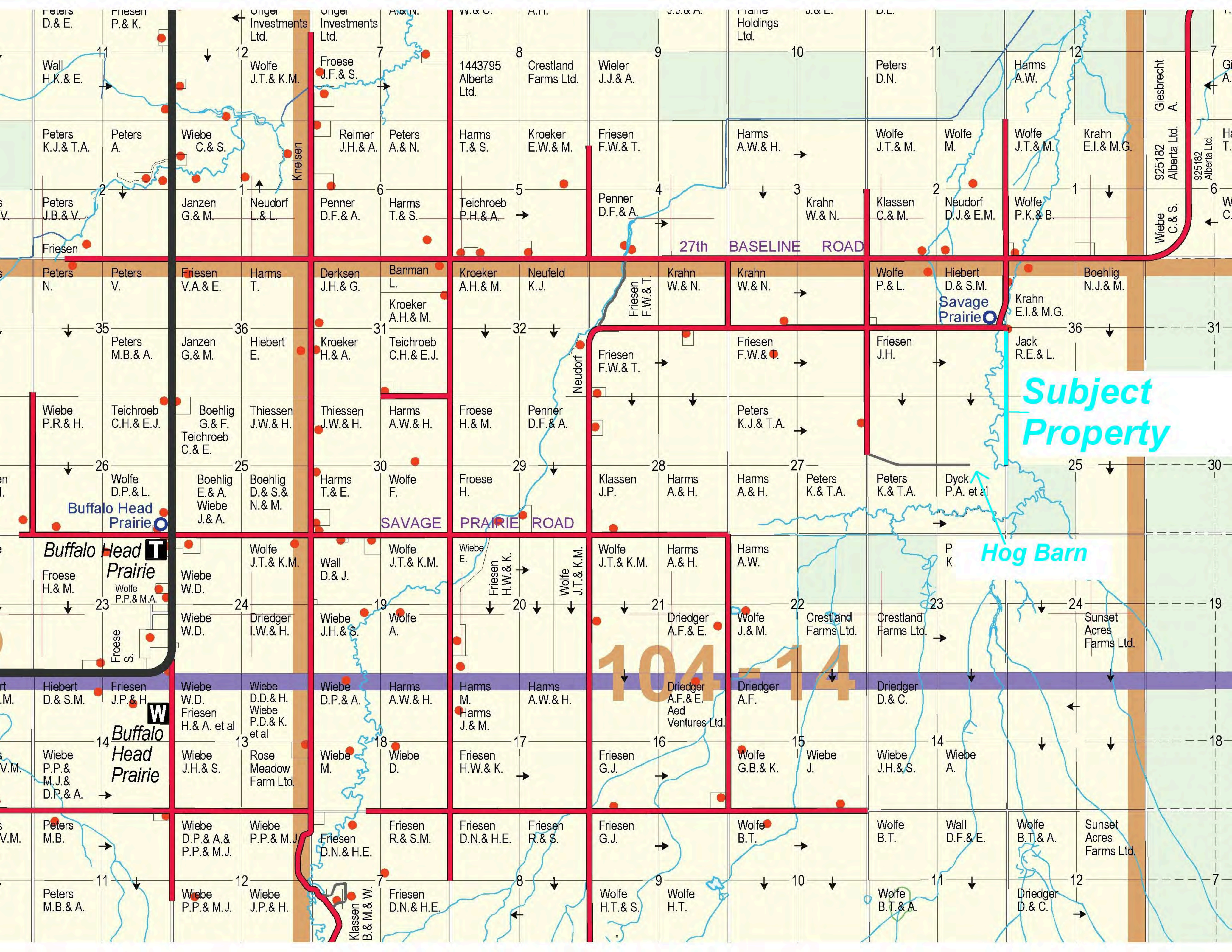
14-5

NE26 104-14-5

NW25 104-14-5

30





**Subject Property**

**104-14**

27th BASELINE ROAD

SAVAGE PRAIRIE ROAD

Hog Barn

Buffalo Head Prairie

Buffalo Head Prairie

Buffalo Head Prairie

Peters M.B. & A.  
Peters M.B.

Wiebe P.P. & M.J.  
Wiebe J.P. & H.

Wiebe J.P. & H.  
Wiebe D.P. & A. & P.P. & M.J.

Klassen B. & M. & W.

Friesen D.N. & H.E.

Friesen R. & S.M.  
Friesen D.N. & H.E.

Friesen R. & S.  
Friesen D.N. & H.E.

Friesen G.J.  
Wolfe H.T. & S.

Wolfe B.T.

Wolfe B.T. & A.

Wolfe B.T.

Wall D.F. & E.

Wolfe B.T. & A.

Driedger D. & C.

Sunset Acres Farms Ltd.

Wiebe P.P. & M.J. & D.P. & A.

Hiebert D. & S.M.

Wiebe J.H. & S.

Wiebe J.H. & S.  
Rose Meadow Farm Ltd.

Wiebe M.

Wiebe D.

Friesen H.W. & K.

Friesen G.J.

Friesen G.J.

Wolfe G.B. & K.

Wiebe J.

Wiebe J.H. & S.

Wiebe A.

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Wiebe A.

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Hiebert D. & S.M.

Wiebe W.D.  
Friesen H. & A. et al

Wiebe W.D.  
Wiebe D.D. & H.  
Wiebe P.D. & K. et al

Wiebe D.P. & A.

Harms A.W. & H.

Harms M.  
Harms J. & M.

Harms A.W. & H.

Driedger A.F. & E.  
Aed Ventures Ltd.

Driedger A.F.

Driedger A.F.

Driedger D. & C.

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Friesen H. & M.

Wiebe P.P. & M.A.

Wiebe W.D.

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Driedger I.W. & H.

Wiebe J.H. & S.

Wolfe A.

Wiebe E.  
Friesen H.W. & K.

Wolfe J.T. & K.M.

Wolfe J.T. & K.M.

Harms A. & H.

Harms A.W.

Wolfe J. & M.

Crestland Farms Ltd.

Crestland Farms Ltd.

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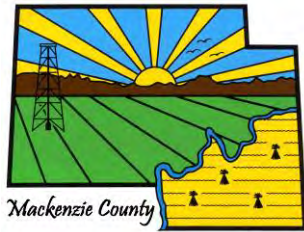
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## MACKENZIE COUNTY REQUEST FOR DECISION

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>November 6, 2012</b>
<b>Presented By:</b>	<b>Joulia Whittleton, Chief Administrative Officer</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Northwest Corridor Development Corporation</b>

### **BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:**

Councillor Jorgensen put his name forward to sit on the board and was elected at the NCDC AGM on October 11, 2012.

NCDC does not provide reimbursement for travel, meals, accommodation etc. Board members are responsible for all costs.

NCDC meets usually three times a year; once in Vancouver, once in Edmonton and then once at a to-be-determined location. This year (January 29, 2012) in Yellowknife. The meetings are one day so the members usually have one night hotel stay. NCDC normally hosts a supper the night before the meeting which is covered.

They also hold their meetings in locations that have teleconference or video conference capabilities, for members who cannot travel.

Additionally the board does have the occasional teleconference.

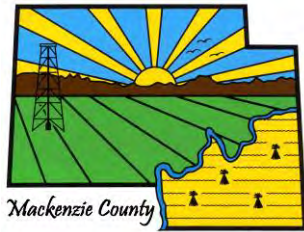
### **OPTIONS & BENEFITS:**

### **COSTS & SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

Honorariums & expenses

**Author:** C. Gabriel      **Review by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CAO** \_\_\_\_\_





## MACKENZIE COUNTY REQUEST FOR DECISION

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>November 6, 2012</b>
<b>Presented By:</b>	<b>Joulia Whittleton, Chief Administrative Officer</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Survey</b>

### **BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:**

Joint completion of the attached survey.

### **OPTIONS & BENEFITS:**

### **COSTS & SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That the completed Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Survey be submitted as discussed.

**Author:** C. Gabriel      **Review by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CAO** \_\_\_\_\_

## Carol Gabriel

---

**From:** Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier, ED MPWA <rhonda.mpwa@serbnet.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 19, 2012 3:08 PM  
**To:** rhonda.mpwa@serbnet.com  
**Subject:** Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Survey  
**Attachments:** Mighty Peace Watershed Full Workbook - Oct. 1.pdf.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

### Dear Residents and Stakeholders of the Peace Watershed,

*Greetings on behalf of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA)– the designated WPAC (Watershed Planning and Advisory Council) for the Peace River Watershed. You have received this email because you have been identified as someone who may have valuable information for the MPWA or possibly have asked to be placed on our email listing in the past.*

The MPWA is busy gathering information needed to complete a 'State of the Watershed' Assessment Report for the Peace. We commissioned 4 projects over the past year that helped us gather some of the science that is necessary to gain an understanding of the Peace Watershed. Now the MPWA is hosting a number of open houses across this vast area of our watershed to gather further information that residents and stakeholders have. We hope you have participated in one of the many open houses, if not please go to our website to find a location that is close to you. (We would appreciate hearing your opinion about the water and the watershed – the uses, issues, challenges, concerns, possibilities, etc.)

**In a continued effort to engage as many people as possible (everyone who lives, works, and plays in the watershed), we are asking you to provide feedback through a survey. Access to the survey is as follows:**

Go to our website [www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org](http://www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org) and **click on the link to survey monkey** – this survey can be used by individuals and is a quick and easy survey format.

\*\*Please forward this email to everyone(family, friends, colleagues, etc.) who you believe has an interest in the Peace River Watershed. Your assistance in distributing this information is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions about the MPWA and the work we are doing please contact me.

***Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier, P.Ag.***

**Executive Director**

**Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance**

Box 217, McLennan, AB T0H 2L0

780-324-3355 office

780-837-0354 cell

Email: [rhonda.mpwa@serbnet.com](mailto:rhonda.mpwa@serbnet.com)

NOTE: Please let me know if you would prefer to not receive email information regarding MPWA



# Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance

## Talking about Our Watershed

### A Discussion Guide



## Guide Purpose

Population growth and economic development can increase our demand for water and impact our water resources. Periods of extended drought or climate change can further exacerbate water issues. For these reasons, Alberta's *Water for Life*<sup>1</sup> strategy looks at how we can better manage water on a watershed basis and achieve the strategy's three goals:

- safe, secure drinking water supplies,
- healthy aquatic ecosystems, and
- reliable, quality supplies for a sustainable economy.

A **Watershed** is an area of land that catches precipitation and drains into a body of water, such as a marsh, stream, river or lake.

In the Peace River watershed, work to achieve these goals is being led by the multi-sector Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA). To learn more about drinking water, water supply and aquatic health in the Peace watershed, the MPWA recently commissioned four technical reports (see these reports online at <http://www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org/reports>).

*Now, the MPWA would like to hear from you!* What can **YOU** tell us about your drinking water, the health of your favorite waterbody or groundwater aquifer and the security of your water supply? Are there water issues, challenges, concerns or possibilities you would like to share with us? If you live, work or play in the Peace watershed, we encourage you to read the topics below and then share your thoughts and experiences. Your input will be used to guide the MPWA in its future work to achieve its vision *that the Peace is a healthy, sustainable watershed that supports our social, environmental and economic objectives*.

**We invite you to read through the sections below and respond to each question by filling in the text boxes before saving the file under a new name and emailing it to [prowell@shaw.ca](mailto:prowell@shaw.ca). Alternatively, you can print the file, fill it in, and mail it to the address below:**

Petra Rowell, Survey Compiler  
Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance  
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<sup>1</sup> For more on the Government of Alberta's *Water for Life* strategy, see <http://www.waterforlife.alberta.ca>.

## INTRODUCTION

The Peace River is about 1,923 kilometres (km) in length and stretches from the head of the Finlay River, located in British Columbia, to Lake Athabasca in northeastern Alberta. The Peace watershed drains an area of approximately 302,500 square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>), of which 60% (182,500 km<sup>2</sup>) is in Alberta. This watershed covers about 28% of the landmass of Alberta.

There are six sub-basins in the Peace watershed (see map below) including three along the mainstem of the Peace River (upper, central and lower), one for the Slave River, and two for the major tributaries (Smoky/Wapiti and Wabasca).

In 2006, approximately 136,800 people lived in the Alberta portion of the Peace River Watershed. This represents about 4% of the Alberta population.

People living in the Smoky/Wapiti sub-basin, which includes the City of Grande Prairie, account for two out of three people living in the Alberta portion of the Peace watershed.

Many people in the watershed are engaged in resource-based activities. Agriculture, oil and gas, forestry, mining and other activities occur throughout the watershed. Industries such as oil and gas development, mining and agricultural expansion are likely to occur in the future.



## DISCUSSION TOPIC #1 – SAFE, SECURE DRINKING WATER

Water For Life Outcome: Albertans Will Be Assured Their Drinking Water Is Safe.

The majority of residents of the Peace River watershed have good access to treated water suitable for drinking and other household uses. That is, 59 regulated water treatment facilities provide treated water to 57 communities with a combined population of 102,749 (or 64% of the population of the Peace watershed).<sup>2</sup>

It is more difficult to describe the drinking water of the remainder of the population in the Peace watershed. These individuals may purchase and haul treated drinking water from a municipal system in a nearby community and store it in a cistern. Alternatively, they may draw it from a private source such as a groundwater well or dugout. It is unknown if individuals with private systems filter or treat their drinking water, or if they get it tested regularly.

With the Peace being the largest river in Alberta, it is assumed that drinking water supply is readily available. However, few communities withdraw water from the main stem of the river with the exception of the Town of Peace River, Fairview, Northern Sunrise County, Nampa, Fox Lake and Fort Vermilion (less than 10% of the population). The remaining 54 communities draw their water from smaller tributaries (e.g. the Wapiti, Little Smoky, etc), groundwater aquifers (e.g. Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer) and lakes (e.g. Cadotte Lake, Footner Lake, etc).

While the long term outlook for drinking water supply is generally good, some issues are arising. The City of Grande Prairie has experienced rapid growth in the last decade and will require additional water supply in the near future. Valleyview and several other communities that draw from the Little Smoky have restrictions on their licences and may seek new sources in the future. For several small communities that draw their water from groundwater aquifers, sustainable pumping rates may be unknown, making it difficult to predict the security of future supply.

**Did you know?** Private water well owners in Alberta are responsible for managing and maintaining their own water wells. The **Working Well** program provides well owners with the information and tools they need to properly care for their wells. For more information about this program, see

<http://environment.alberta.ca/01317.html>.

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<sup>2</sup> Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd. *State of Drinking Water in the Peace River Watershed*. Prepared for the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance, March 2012. 130 pp.



## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Do you know where your drinking water comes from (if it is a river or lake, please name this waterbody. Otherwise please indicate if your source is a dugout, private well, or municipal source)?
2. Do you think your drinking water is safe? Why or why not?
3. If you are an individual that draws your water from a private system (a stream, groundwater well or dugout), what method of treatment do you use and how often do you get your water tested?
4. Do you think your drinking water supply is secure (i.e. do you think your source will continue to provide water for the next 10 years? 25 years?)
5. If you are a municipality, First Nation or Métis Settlement, are you taking any steps to protect your drinking water source (prior to intake into a water treatment plant)?
6. What further research or actions do you think the MPWA should undertake to achieve this outcome of *safe, secure drinking water* in the Peace watershed?

## DISCUSSION TOPIC #2 – HEALTHY AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

Water For Life Outcome: Albertans Will Be Assured That The Province's Aquatic Ecosystems Are Maintained And Protected.

Every body of water, be it a river, lake or wetland, supports an aquatic ecosystem. It is important that these ecosystems are healthy: that is, they are robust and resilient to change over time.

The biggest impact on the Peace River was the construction of the WAC Bennett Dam in the late 1960s. While the dam has changed the pattern of river flow, sedimentation patterns and possibly the frequency of flooding in the Peace-Athabasca Delta, it is unclear if these changes have affected the health of this aquatic ecosystem.

This watershed is also experiencing increased growth and intensification of urban development, agriculture, forestry, extraction and processing from mining and oil and gas operations, hydroelectric development and fisheries, along with increased linear features, such as roads and cutlines. An increase in land-use activities can have an impact on the health of aquatic ecosystems.

An **aquatic ecosystem** is an aquatic area where living and non-living elements of the environment interact. This includes the physical, chemical, and biological processes and characteristics of rivers, lakes, and wetlands and the plants and animals associated with them.

A **healthy aquatic ecosystem** is an aquatic environment that sustains its ecological structure, processes, functions, and resilience within its range of natural variability.

Over the past four decades, there have been a large number of aquatic ecosystem studies undertaken at various locations throughout the Peace River watershed. Charette *et al* indicated that there is good information about the water quality of the Peace main stem and Smoky-Wapiti sub-basin.<sup>3</sup> Less is known about the other sub-basins and about sediment quality and non-fish biota. However, until a suite of aquatic ecosystem health indicators is chosen, it is difficult to assess what information we need and what is missing. A state of the watershed assessment and ongoing monitoring of aquatic ecosystem indicators will help us assess impacts in the future. In the meantime, sectors can take many actions now to lessen their impact.

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<sup>3</sup> CharettePellPoscente Environmental Corp and Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd. *Aquatic Ecosystem Health of the Peace Watershed Project: final report June 2012*. Prepared for the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance, June 2012. 102 pp.

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

7. Aside from your source of drinking water, are there other water bodies (wetlands, lakes, streams or aquifers) in the Peace watershed that are important to you? (Please name up to 3.)
  
8. Thinking about these waterbodies, would you say their health is good or poor?
  
9. Have you noticed any changes in the health of waterbodies in your area over the past 10 years? If yes, what aspect of health do you think has changed (water quality; fish populations, shoreline health, etc.) and what do you think is causing this change?
  
10. If you represent a sector whose activity might impact the aquatic ecosystem health of a lake, stream, wetland or aquifer (e.g. industry, municipalities, recreational groups, etc), what actions are you taking to lessen your impact?
  
11. What further research or actions do you think the MPWA should undertake to ensure aquatic ecosystems remain healthy in the Peace watershed?

## DISCUSSION TOPIC #3 - RELIABLE, QUALITY SUPPLIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Water For Life Outcome: Albertans Will Be Assured That Water Is Managed Effectively To Support Sustainable Economic Development.

Many Albertans assume that given the size of the Peace River, water supply is not an issue and agricultural, industrial and other growth opportunities abound in this watershed. And in general, with current allocations somewhat less than 1% of the Peace River average annual volume, water supply is not as big a concern as it is in the southern part of the province.

However, many users do not draw directly from the Peace River main stem. Instead, water is withdrawn from lakes, tributaries and aquifers throughout the watershed. Thus supply issues are very dependent on where you are in the watershed. Additionally, periods of prolonged drought or future climate change may exacerbate local water supply conditions.

Watercon Consulting *et al* reported that current water allocations (withdrawals for municipal, industrial, agricultural and other uses) in the Peace watershed are largely from surface water sources (89%) versus groundwater (11%) although this ratio will probably change with greater reliance on groundwater in the future.<sup>4</sup> Of the total current surface water allocations, more than half are from the Smoky sub-basin. (Groundwater allocations are largely from the Smoky and Wabasca sub-basins.)

Commercial activities (coal, pulp and thermal) are they biggest holders of surface water licences (67%), followed by municipalities (19%), oil and gas (7%) and agriculture (5%). (The oil and gas sector holds more than 50% of all groundwater licences.) However, what a licensee is allocated, and what is actually diverted and consumed are two different stories. Many licensees are obligated to return much of their flow

Of all the sub-basins in the Peace watershed, the **Smoky-Wapiti Sub-basin** is currently the most highly impacted, with the largest population, the most water withdrawals and a host of cumulative impacts from a broad range of land-use activities that occur within its boundaries. Additionally, water use is predicted to increase in this basin by 26% by 2025. While much of the water withdrawn on this river is eventually returned, increased withdrawals could further exacerbate water quality and aquatic ecosystem health, particularly during periods of low flow or extended drought.

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<sup>4</sup> Watercon Consulting, Ellehoj Redmond Consulting, Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd. and Duane McNaughton, P. Geol. *The Peace Watershed: Current and Future Water Use and Issues*. Prepared for the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance, March 2012. 125 pp.

to the river (think treated municipal wastewater or pulp mill effluent), hence actual consumption is much less than licensed amounts.

Watercon *et al* predicts that water use will increase by 40% in the Peace watershed between now and 2025. The majority (61%) of this growth will be in industries involved in development of the oilsands and heavy oil deposits of the Central Peace and Wabasca sub-basins. Some population growth and agricultural intensification will also result in more water use in these sectors. Again, with current allocations adding up to less than 1% of the average annual flow of the Peace River, a 40% increase may not seem very large. However, this number should be further investigated to determine local impacts on the Central Peace and Wabasca sub-basins, where much of this growth will occur.

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

12. Do you think the way we are currently managing water supply in the Peace watershed is effective? If not, why not? How would you improve it?
  
13. If you are representing a sector, do you feel your current water supply is of sufficient quality and quantity for your activity to be sustainable in the Peace watershed for the next 10 years? 25 years?
  
14. If you are a licensee, do you report your actual water use via the online reporting tool? If not, why not?
  
15. What further research or actions do you think the MPWA should undertake to ensure this outcome of *reliable, quality supplies for a sustainable economy* is achieved in the Peace watershed?

## DISCUSSION TOPIC #4 - KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH

Water For Life Outcome - Albertans Will Have The Knowledge Needed To Achieve Safe Drinking Water, Efficient Water Use, And Healthy Watersheds.

The four technical reports commissioned by the MPWA identified information needs important to the MPWA. However, they did not assess people's knowledge about water or the Peace watershed. This workbook begins to assess this through engaging stakeholders and the public.

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

16. Do you have enough information about the source, quality and security of your drinking water supply?
  
17. Do you have accurate/relevant information about your water use and what you can do to conserve it and/or use it more efficiently?
  
18. Do you have enough information about the health of the watershed or sub-basin where you live and what you can do to keep it healthy?
  
19. Is there other information lacking that the MPWA could collect to improve our knowledge about the Peace watershed?

## DISCUSSION TOPIC #5 - PARTNERSHIPS

Water For Life Outcome: Citizens And Stakeholders Will Have Opportunities To Actively Participate In Watershed Management On A Provincial, Regional And Community Basis.

The MPWA was formed to give sectors and people living, working and playing in the Peace watershed an opportunity to participate in water management using a consensus and watershed-based approach.

Additionally, local stewardship groups are encouraged to address water issues at a local scale. These stewardship groups (e.g. West County, Clearhills Watershed Initiative, Heart River, Grimshaw Gravels, etc.) also provide opportunities for individuals and sectors to be involved at the local level.

And finally, many other sectors, research, environmental and other organizations are doing water-related work in the Peace watershed.

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

20. Do you feel there are adequate opportunities for you to participate in watershed management activities in the Peace watershed? If not, why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
21. What further research or actions do you think the MPWA should undertake to improve partnerships in the Peace watershed?

## DISCUSSION TOPIC #6 WATER CONSERVATION, EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY

Water For Life Outcome: Albertans Will Be Leaders In Conservation By Using Water Efficiently And Effectively.

Because of a fairly good water supply, water conservation, efficiency and productivity has not been a big focus in the Peace watershed (except in areas of shortage or periods of drought). However, it is a big focus of *Water for Life* which calls for all major water-using sectors to produce Water Conservation Efficiency and Productivity (CEP) plans.<sup>5</sup>

This planning effort has benefits for the Peace watershed as well. For example, the Forest Sector has developed a water CEP plan to reduce water use and improve efficiency in Alberta's seven pulp and paper mills, all located in the Peace and Athabasca watersheds. Individuals can do their part to reduce water consumption. Many municipalities now promote the use water-saving devices such as low flow toilets or shower heads.

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

22. Do you think there is a need to conserve water in your area?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
23. As an individual, sector or municipality, what are you doing to improve water conservation, efficiency or productivity?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
24. What could the MPWA do to help you or others in the watershed improve water conservation efforts?

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<sup>5</sup> For more about these CEP plans, see <http://www.albertawatercouncil.ca/Projects/WaterConservationEfficiencyandProductivity/tabid/115/Default.aspx>



## FINAL THOUGHTS

25. Is there anything more you would like to tell the MPWA about water issues, opportunities or challenges in the Peace watershed?
26. Which sub-basin do you live or work in (see the map on page 3)?
27. Which sector do you represent (a member of the public, academia, forestry, oil and gas, non-government organization, municipality, etc).

### **Thank you for completing this workbook!**

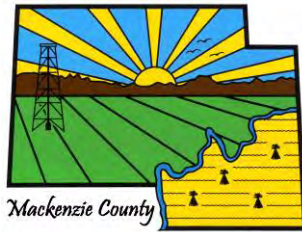
If submitting electronically, please remember to save this document under a new name and email to [prowell@shaw.ca](mailto:prowell@shaw.ca). Alternatively, please print the document and mail to the address below.

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## MACKENZIE COUNTY REQUEST FOR DECISION

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>November 6, 2012</b>
<b>Presented By:</b>	<b>Joulia Whittleton, Chief Administrative Officer</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>AAMDC Fall 2012 Resolutions</b>

### **BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:**

The resolutions being brought forward to the Fall 2012 AAMDC Convention are attached for Council's review and discussion.

### **OPTIONS & BENEFITS:**

### **COSTS & SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

For discussion.

Author: C. Gabriel Review by: \_\_\_\_\_ CAO \_\_\_\_\_



# AAMDC Fall 2012 Order Paper

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Appointment of Parliamentarian
- 3) Acceptance of Order Paper
- 4) Resolution Session

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>1-12F</b>  | <b>Maintaining Policies Assessing Agricultural and Linear Infrastructure</b>                    |
| <b>2-12F</b>  | <b>Advocacy in Support of a New Long-Term Federal Plan for Municipal Infrastructure Funding</b> |
| <b>3-12F</b>  | <b>Recycling Agriculture Plastics</b>   |
| <b>4-12F</b>  | <b>Local Authorities Pension Plan</b>   |
| <b>5-12F</b>  | <b>Alberta Rat Control Program</b>  |
| <b>6-12F</b>  | <b>Creation of a New Property Assessment Class</b>  |
| <b>7-12F</b>  | <b>Physician Licensing &amp; Privileges</b>   |
| <b>8-12F</b>  | <b>Private Sewage Systems Study</b>   |
| <b>9-12F</b>  | <b>Provincial Single Energy Regulator Accountability for Quality of Air and Water</b>           |
| <b>10-12F</b> | <b>Community Aggregate Payment Levy Rate</b>  |
| <b>11-12F</b> | <b>Sustainable Resource Development Appeals</b>   |
| <b>12-12F</b> | <b>Insurance Coverage for Wildland Fire Fighting Costs</b>                                      |
| <b>13-12F</b> | <b>Recruitment of Registered Nurses</b>   |
| <b>14-12F</b> | <b>Blanket Winter Hauling Weights</b>   |
| <b>15-12F</b> | <b>Municipal Rights to Gravel Resources Under Municipal Road Allowances</b>                     |
| <b>16-12F</b> | <b>Wetland Restoration Program</b>  |
| <b>17-12F</b> | <b>Alberta Transmission System Facilities Planning Process</b>                                  |
| <b>18-12F</b> | <b>Preservation and Protection of Potable Water</b>   |
| <b>19-12F</b> | <b>Public Access to Alberta Lakes and Rivers</b>  |

- 20-12F      Regulation of Ice Fishing Huts on Alberta Lakes**
- 21-12F      Sustaining Alberta's Energy Value Chain**
- 22-12F      Obligation to Consult**
- 23-12F      Quality of Food Served in Rural Continuing Care Homes**
- 24-12F      Infrastructures Located Under Provincial Primary and Secondary Highways**
- 25-12F      9-1-1 Pocket Dials**
- 26-12F      Access to Health Care and Economic Development**
- 27-12F      Modernization of Seed Cleaning Plants**
- 28-12F      Non-Contiguous Additions to Reserve Lands**

- 5) Acceptance of Emergent Resolutions (if needed)
- 6) Vote on Emergent Resolutions (if needed)
- 7) Closing of Resolution Session

## **Maintaining Policies on Assessing Agricultural and Linear Infrastructure**

Sturgeon County

Simple Majority

*Endorsed by the Pembina River District*

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WHEREAS assessment of agricultural lands is currently regulated rate by the Province; and

WHEREAS agricultural residences are assessed on a market value basis; and

WHEREAS agricultural operators face significant operating and capital cost challenges making agricultural business highly volatile; and

WHEREAS the value of linear infrastructure and related taxes are currently determined by the Province; and

WHEREAS municipal districts and counties construct and maintain roadway, utilities and reconstruct bridge infrastructures for a much smaller population dispersed over a much larger geographical area; and

WHEREAS residents, industry and visitors from throughout and beyond the Province of Alberta utilize rural roadways and bridges for the purposes of tourism and business travel; accessing employment and enabling logistics and transportation of goods; and

WHEREAS current property taxes for rural residents are generally commensurate with the level of services they enjoy; and

WHEREAS linear infrastructures sterilize and reduce the viable development of lands for agricultural, residential and industrial/commercial applications; and

WHEREAS this has a direct impact on the viability of rural communities; and

WHEREAS linear infrastructure taxes provide revenues for municipalities to help ensure municipalities can invest in infrastructure in support of the overall competitiveness of rural municipalities and the Province overall;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties encourage the Provincial Government to maintain policies on assessing Agricultural Lands and collecting and distributing Linear Infrastructure be maintained; and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties advises both the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and the Province regarding the importance of maintaining the current approaches.**

### **Member Background**

An AUMA Policy Paper (Changes to Property Assessment and Taxation) and associated resolution was submitted for consideration at the AUMA Fall Conference (September 26 - 28, 2012). Among other recommendations, the Policy Paper proposes that agricultural properties be assessed on a market value basis (buildings, structures and linear property for farming operations) and infers that the Province should revisit the collection and distribution of revenues from Linear Infrastructures.

### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

## **Advocacy in Support of a New Long-Term Federal Plan for Municipal Infrastructure Funding**

AAMDC

Simple Majority  
*Individual Resolution*

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WHEREAS the Building Canada Plan and a number of important federal-provincial transfer agreements vital to Canada's municipalities, will expire in March 2014; and

WHEREAS federal investments over the last few years have helped to slow the infrastructure decline of our cities and communities, and the Government of Canada has committed to develop a new long-term plan for municipal infrastructure funding in consultation with municipal and provincial/territorial governments; and

WHEREAS a seamless transition from the Building Canada Plan to a new long term plan is necessary to ensure that municipalities can continue planning their capital spending effectively; and

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched a campaign to ensure the new plan reflects municipal priorities across the country and asks its member municipalities to pass a Council resolution supporting the campaign; and

WHEREAS the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) has been a strong advocate for long-term, sustainable funding to meet the infrastructure need of rural municipalities;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC endorses the FCM campaign and urges the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities to work with FCM to ensure the new long-term infrastructure plan meets the core infrastructure needs of municipalities and is fully in place when existing programs expire in 2014.**

### **AAMDC Background**

Federal infrastructure funding agreements have been in place since 2007 and have involved a total budget of \$33 billion. Programs within this funding include the Building Canada Fund that has provided \$8.8 billion in provincial and municipal funding and the Gas Tax Fund will provide \$11.8 billion directly to municipalities.

Municipalities continue to need long-term, sustainable funding options supported by other levels of government. Federal infrastructure funding is critical to alleviating the growing pressures in municipal infrastructure deficits. *Restoring Municipal Fiscal Balance*, a 2006 report issued by FCM, notes that municipalities only receive 8 cents on every tax dollar collected in Canada. This demonstrates the challenge municipalities face as they balance limitations in tax revenue with ever-increasing operational and capital expenses.

In July 2012, the Minister of State for Transport, Steven Fletcher, hosted a roundtable consultation with representatives from industry and government to share their ideas on what a new funding framework should offer. The AAMDC presented the following four asks and while they were developed for this consultation, they would apply to municipal funding models from all levels of government.

1. Funding should be delivered on a non-competitive free-flow basis that supports certainty and predictability for financial planning. Proper financial planning requires a long term focus; however, the current reality is that municipalities are dependent on transfers from federal and provincial government. These transfers are rarely certain nor predictable. This presents significant challenges for municipalities to prepare long term financial plans that will enable them to properly



maintain and replace infrastructure such as roads, bridges, buildings and water and wastewater systems.

2. Funding should be long term with a commitment of at least a 10 year funding cycle. A long term commitment to funding levels allows municipalities to properly prepare for their financial future knowing exactly when and what levels of funding will be received.
3. Funding should be indexed to protect the present value of the funding. Without an indexation of funding agreements, the long term value of the funding will be eroded due to inflation. For instance, the federal government's 2007 commitment to provide \$2 billion per year through the Federal Gas Tax Fund for the four years of 2010 to 2013 amounted to \$199.5 million each year for Alberta. However, when applying Alberta's consumer price index, the value of that \$199.5 million has reduced by 10% to only \$179 million by 2013. In fact, that original \$798 million commitment will only provide \$741 million in value over the length of the four year term.
4. Funding should be flexible to support local infrastructure needs. Local government is the government closest to the people and as such, municipalities are best positioned to know what citizens want and how to provide it. A flexible federal infrastructure plan will ensure each municipality can respond to local needs efficiently. Over 175 municipalities and municipal associations across Canada have passed similar resolutions in support of this initiative.

## **Recycling Agriculture Plastics**

Saddle Hills County

Simple Majority  
*Endorsed by the Northern District*

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WHEREAS agricultural plastics such as grain bags, silage tarps or hay bags are becoming a problem throughout Alberta, littering the fence lines of many properties and causing unsightliness in many communities; and

WHEREAS municipalities have recognized that there is a problem, however, there is only one known location where recycling agricultural plastic takes place and the cost to transport the plastics to the southern Alberta site makes recycling in northern Alberta cost prohibitive; and

WHEREAS disposing of the polypropylene products by burning is prohibited; and

WHEREAS municipalities are willing to work with the provincial government to partner in a solution that would assist local producers to recycle their agricultural products by providing sites to use as collection places, however, trucking of the product to the recycle facility is costly;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Provincial Government to develop recycle programs for the agriculture industry for the recycling of agricultural plastics.**

### **Member Background**

Creating a recycling system for all agricultural plastic was first driven by the switch from sisal to twine for bales, then to plastic silage tarps, plastic bale bags and more recently grain bags.

It's estimated 4,300 to 5,000 tonnes of polypropylene twine and cord were sold in Alberta in 2007 and 3,000 to 4,000 tonnes of polyethylene material like silage bags and covers. The amount of polyethylene material is expected to increase dramatically with the popularity of grain bags. The bags grew in popularity quickly over the past five years for a number of reasons, not the least of which include they're cheaper than traditional bins, save fuel costs for farmers, and farmers can often store damp grain in them. The material, more than nine mils thick and nearly indestructible, was unlike any other plastic seen. Bags also block UV rays, fungus growth and hungry wildlife looking for an easy snack and protect grain for as long as 18 months in the field.

The Alberta Plastics Recycling Association formed the Alberta Plastics Working Group in 2010 to find the best way to recycle agricultural plastics. A half dozen collection sites were established to get an understanding of the amount, type and quality of material involved and if there was a market for it. The pilot project also brought in plastic from British Columbia's fruit growing region.

Association executive director Grant Cameron said one of the biggest obstacles was trucking the plastic to the recycling plant in southern Alberta.

"It's very bulky. When you buy it, it's nicely rolled up from the factory. Once they are used, they're crumpled and misshapen and hard to get rolled."

There currently exists a company in Hussar in southern Alberta that has a recycle plant for plastics such as grain bags, silage tarps, bale bags and twine. This company pays \$150 per tonne for the plastic, however, people who are recycling the plastic have to truck the product to southern Alberta. The product must be free of organic materials. This grain bag industry is growing very quickly due to the cost efficiency of the bags, however, the product that is left behind is causing a lot of problems with the environment and with the aesthetics of many communities. Grain bags are littering many farms and

acreages across Alberta. In Saskatchewan, the government contributed \$160,000 to a provincial pilot project to get the collection system going.

At the 2012, Alberta Agricultural Services Boards conference a resolution was passed requesting the Provincial Government to establish a program to recycle agricultural plastics similar to the Empty Pesticide Container Recycling Program.

The Government response was that both Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) and Alberta Environment and Water (AEW) recognize that agricultural plastic use is increasing, especially grain bags, and concern over managing it as waste is rising in Alberta. Both ministries are working jointly to scope the issue and collect data on how agricultural plastics are managed in Alberta to help inform future policy options on the issue. A preferred model or approach to waste management has not been identified and both departments agree that more Alberta-specific data is needed before any recommendations are made. ARD is funding the cost of two surveys to collect data, which will be completed by fall 2012, targeting agricultural producers and municipal waste authorities. It is too soon to tell if the Empty Pesticide Container Recycling Program is the best option for Alberta. Alberta's program for pesticide containers is a voluntary initiative funded by industry and managed by CleanFarms. Although ARD is independently working with various municipalities to coordinate agricultural plastic roundup days to educate producers about the processes of preparing plastics for recycling more must be done to develop programs requiring the recycling of this product.

#### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

## Local Authorities Pension Plan

MD of Big Lakes

Simple Majority  
*Endorsed by the Northern District*

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WHEREAS the unfunded liability of the Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP) is \$4.64 billion; and

WHEREAS approximately 40% of this unfunded liability is due to the very substantial raises given to health care sector workers in 2008 by the Government of Alberta; and

WHEREAS the unfairness of requiring local municipalities to pay increased LAPP premiums to fund a deficit that was largely caused by the Government of Alberta's actions to increase wages in a sector of the economy unrelated to municipal government is self-evident; and

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta provided the Alberta Teacher's Pension Plan \$2.488 billion in 2008 to fund a portion of their unfunded liability;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties calls upon the Government of Alberta to acknowledge that a substantial portion of the LAPP's unfunded liability is a direct consequence of the Government of Alberta actions; and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urges the Government of Alberta to provide financial assistance to LAPP equivalently generous to that which was given to the Alberta Teachers Pension Plan in 2008;**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that should in the future the Government of Alberta choose to increase the health care sector wages, an appropriate sum should also be allocated to LAPP to prevent the cost of health care worker pension costs being transferred to Alberta municipalities.**

### Member Background

Pension benefits from LAPP are "defined benefit", and are based upon the best 5 years an employee has within the plan.

Typically, the best 5 years are at the end of a person's career.

The very substantial (~12%) raises given by the Alberta Government to health care workers in 2008 have now moved through the system, and the "best 5 years" for the typical healthcare worker has consequentially also gone up about 12%.

Since retirement benefits are directly tied to these "best 5 years" the financial obligation to these workers has also gone up an incremental 12%, which has, in part, caused the "unfunded liability" - the difference between LAPP assets and obligations, to grow to about \$4.64 billion.

To offset this gap, LAPP has substantially raised its premiums, but this increase in premiums falls not only on the health care system, but also upon municipalities as they share the same pension plan. In effect, this is a transfer of financial burden onto the municipalities to pay for the consequences of a provincial decision to adjust wages in the health care sector.

We do not feel it is fair to have the municipalities pay a portion of the increased pension costs associated with the increase in health care worker salaries. Since 2008, LAPP contribution rates for employers have increased as follows:

Up to CPP maximum:	7.75% => 10.43%
Above CPP max	10.65% => 14.47%

The rate increases have reduced the effective wages of municipal employees, while directly increasing total staff costs for municipalities.

In 2008 the province gave the Teacher's Pension Plan just under \$2.5 billion dollars to bridge an "unfunded liability" and we think it would be appropriate for the province to similarly compensate municipalities for this cost transfer that they have imposed upon us with respect to LAPP.

**AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

**Alberta Rat Control Program**

Parkland County

Simple Majority

*Endorsed by the Pembina River District*

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WHEREAS the Alberta Rat Control Program has been in existence since the early 1950's; and

WHEREAS it is estimated that rats cause about \$200 billion in damages worldwide; and

WHEREAS rats are among nature's most prolific breeders; and

WHEREAS rats potentially pose a health hazard to humans; and

WHEREAS Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR) is clearly the method needed to maintain Alberta's rat free status;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Province of Alberta to continue adequate funding to ensure the effectiveness of the Provincial Rat Control Program.**

**Member Background**

The provincial rat control program has been in existence for approximately 50 years. This program has, no doubt, saved Albertans millions of dollars over this time frame. Alberta's rat free status is maintained by the "Rat Patrol" that operates along Alberta's eastern border. The rat patrol maintains a rat free buffer that extends into Saskatchewan.

The recent infestation in Southern Alberta has proven that no matter how vigilant we are, rats were able to not only survive but multiply unnoticed in an area frequented by people. This infestation is being handled quickly and professionally by Alberta rat patrol as well as other municipal pest control officers. The fact that this infestation occurred is reason enough to reiterate to the province that funding to support the rat program needs at minimum to be maintained, and in all reality should likely be increased. The last thing anyone wants to see is the province lose its "Rat Free" status.

**AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

## **Creation of a New Property Assessment Class**

RM of Wood Buffalo

Three-Fifths Majority  
*Individual Resolution*

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WHEREAS Section 297(1) of the Municipal Government Act (MGA), identifies assessment classes to be assigned to properties when preparing an assessment; and

WHEREAS the MGA authorizes municipalities to divide the residential assessment class into sub-classes on any basis that it considers appropriate and to assign a different tax rate for each residential sub-class; and

WHEREAS the MGA only authorizes a municipality to divide the non-residential assessment class into vacant or improved sub-classes; and

WHEREAS some municipalities currently have non-residential classes for both the urban service area and the rural service area; and

WHEREAS in some cases there is an inequity between taxation against similar properties located in the rural service area versus the urban service area; and

WHEREAS municipalities do not presently have the legislative authority to create a new assessment subclass of rural non-residential property;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the provincial government to amend the Municipal Government Act to:**

- **authorize municipalities to assign a new assessment class to be levied on rural small business properties; or**
- **expedite the creation of a regulation which would enable municipalities to create sub-classes within the rural non-residential tax category; or**
- **create a special category to deal specifically with small businesses; or**
- **create additional/unique urban service areas around hamlets within municipalities or any other legislation that would allow a different property assessment class or sub-class for small businesses in the rural areas of a municipality.**

### **Member Background**

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is a specialized municipality established in 1995 by the Government of Alberta. Recognizing the uniqueness of the region, the establishing Order In Council provided the Municipality with the ability to create separate taxation rates for the rural and urban service areas.

The oil sands industry is located within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, specifically within the Municipality's rural service area. This industry is assessed and taxed as rural non-residential property; however, that tax class also includes small businesses operating within the rural service area, which means that all businesses in the rural service area, regardless of size or impact, are taxed at the same rate.

Significant growth within the Municipality has placed considerable strain on municipal services and infrastructure. As a result, incremental tax increases were implemented in the rural non-residential tax category to fund the cost of the needed improvements and new projects required to accommodate the increasing population. With small businesses falling in the same tax category as industry, they have had to accommodate significant taxation increases, which can be financially crippling to small businesses.

The Municipal Government Act allows for the creation of assessment sub-classes for residential properties (class 1) on any basis that Council considers appropriate. Legislation does not grant the same degree of flexibility in establishing assessment sub-classes when dealing with non-residential (class 2) properties, and limits the extent of sub-class creation to built-upon and vacant properties. Assessment legislation varies from province to province, with varying degrees of flexibility. For example, Ontario offers seven standard property classes (residential; multi-residential; commercial; industrial; pipeline; farmland; and managed forests) and an additional five optional classes have been prescribed by regulation. Under Saskatchewan's legislation, one uniform mill rate is established for municipal taxes, which may be adjusted by mill rate factors which are created by municipal councils as they see fit.

The restriction in Alberta's legislation has resulted in significant tax increases for rural small businesses, while businesses residing in the urban service area have benefitted from relatively stable taxation. For example, in 2002, the urban non-residential and rural non-residential tax rates were on par, at 0.0800 and 0.0800, respectively. In 2012, the same rates were 0.0053058 and 0.0183209, respectively which translates to the rural non-residential rate being three times higher than the urban non-residential rate.

The Municipality has no means to separate small businesses from industry for taxation purposes. A resolution of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, supporting the creation of an additional tax category for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is critical to the continued economic viability of rural small businesses in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

### **AAMDC Background**

Resolution 27-05F (expired): THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to amend the Municipal Government Act such that a municipality may divide the non-residential assessment class into sub-classes that it considers appropriate; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the provincial government to amend the Municipal Government Act such that a municipality is authorized to assign different tax rates to the machinery and equipment assessment class and any non-residential assessment sub-class provided that the difference in any of the tax rates levied against the machinery and equipment assessment class and any non-residential assessment sub-class is not greater than one and one-half (1.5) times.

Resolution 14-05S (expired): THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the provincial government to either amend the Municipal Government Act to allow for the non-residential class to be subdivided into industrial and commercial classes to provide for a split tax rate, or that machinery and equipment be assessed at 100% value rather than 77%.

Development (for both expired resolutions):

The Ministers Council on Municipal Sustainability recommended that own-source revenues such as limited split mill rates be considered. However, the Government of Alberta reserved decision on this recommendation pending consultation with municipalities and other stakeholders regarding its implications. In the meantime, Municipal Affairs committed to working with both municipal and industry stakeholders to develop solutions that will address the concerns of all parties within the existing legislative framework.



## Physician Licensing & Privileges

County of Newell

Simple Majority

*Endorsed by the Foothills-Little Bow District*

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WHEREAS it is becoming more difficult to recruit and retain physicians in rural Alberta such that municipalities are now forced to expend resources to supplement the Province's responsibility and efforts to recruit and retain physicians in rural Alberta;and

WHEREAS many successfully recruited physicians, unless trained in Canada, are required to complete lengthy assessments in locations other than where the physician was recruited prior to being licensed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta; and to complete an assessment prior to receiving privileges to perform specialist services from Alberta Health Services;and

WHEREAS this assessment period may be financially difficult for physicians with families as they may have to keep a residence in the recruitment municipality and in the assessment municipality while only receiving a stipend during part of the assessment process;and

WHEREAS these physicians may become connected to the first community in which they reside, which would be the assessment community, and choose to remain there to practice resulting in wasted recruitment efforts and frustration to the recruiting municipality;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the provincial government to increase its efforts in recruiting physicians to rural Alberta, especially Canadian trained physicians; work with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta to shorten the assessment period; and/or allow assessments to occur in the recruiting community; and ensure that Alberta Health Services review and streamline its assessment process for granting privileges.**

### **Member Background**

Health care and physician recruitment is a provincial responsibility. The increasing lack of physicians in rural Alberta suggests that recruitment and incentive programs are lagging to the point that municipalities are being forced to augment these efforts with financial and human resources.

Even if a municipality's recruitment efforts are successful, there are still several hurdles to overcome prior to the realization of the physician practicing in the community. First, the doctor must become licensed. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta has the responsibility to license doctors in the province. If the recruited physician is Canadian trained, however, this assessment period is not required.

Prior to receiving a license, those recruited physicians who received their training outside of Canada must successfully complete a two part assessment process. The first part is a pre-clinical assessment. This pre-clinical assessment can take up to 3-months and is completed at a facility with an assessor but cannot be at the clinic, or even the community, to which the doctor was recruited. The second part of the assessment is the clinical assessment. During this phase, the physician does practice in the actual clinic to which the physician was recruited.

If the doctor is coming from another province, is trained in Canada and is fully licensed in that province, internal trade agreements insure that the doctor will be fully licensed. If the doctor is from another province but is trained out of country, the assessment period is not required but there may be exceptions.

With regard to a physician that is recruited and has the capability to provide specialist services, the physician requires a medical staff appointment followed by a further assessment as relates to the specialty and then must be granted privileges to perform in hospitals. The assessment and the granting of

the privileges are provided by Alberta Health Services. These assessments can take anywhere from two weeks to a month and even longer depending on the specialty. These assessments take place in the larger urban centres. Even though a specialist may come from another province within Canada, Alberta Health Services may still require an assessment period.

There are concerns with the length and location of the assessments especially since the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta have recently increased the length of the assessment period. Physicians certainly can become attached to the community in which they are completing their assessments to the point that they decide to practice there instead of the location to which they were recruited. This results in a waste of resources and frustration to the recruiting community. This is only exacerbated by the length of the assessment.

Also, if a physician does have a family and wants to establish the family in the recruiting community for reasons such as not having to have children switch school jurisdictions during the assessment period, they are forced to maintain a residence in both the recruiting community and the assessing community. This causes a financial hardship as these physicians only receive a small stipend while they are completing the first part of their assessment. This leaves a disincentive to locate to the recruiting community.

In order to resolve this inequity, the Province must increase its efforts on recruiting physicians to rural Alberta, especially Canadian trained physicians; work with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta to shorten the assessment period; and/or allow assessments to occur in the recruiting community.

Please note that a similar resolution was presented at the 2012 AUMA Convention by the City of Brooks and was carried.

### **AAMDC Background**

Resolution 6-12S: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC actively encourage the Government of Alberta to fully attend to its federally and provincially legislated responsibilities of providing sufficient funding, staffing and programming so that there are enough physicians and other medical support staff in place to deliver universal and accessible health care in all of Alberta.

#### Development:

The AAMDC acknowledges the work that the provincial and federal government have made toward ensuring access to medical staff in all areas of the province. The Association is aware that a doctor shortage is a problem that takes many years to fix, and acknowledges the work that is already being done to achieve this. Federally, the AAMDC was pleased to see an announcement stating that doctors that choose to work in a rural area can earn up to \$40,000 worth of forgiveness on student loans. This is a significant incentive for new doctors to move to rural areas, and the association is pleased with the initiative. The AAMDC will follow up with the Rural Physician Action Plan, as well as through formal minister meetings to ensure that this issue remains top of mind.

Resolution 2-10F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties encourage the Provincial Government, through Alberta Health and Wellness, to consent to pay travel expenses for out-of-province physicians willing to investigate relocating to "Communities in Need".

#### Development:

At meetings with the Minister, it was brought to the attention of the AAMDC that there is funding available for out-of-province expenses. Up to \$10,000 is available, though applications for funding must be made in advance of the expenses being incurred. With this development, the intent of the resolution has been fulfilled, and the AAMDC gives this resolution the status of accepted.

In 2012, the federal government announced further incentives to attract doctors to rural Canada. Both doctors and nurses will have access of up to \$40,000 or \$20,000 respectively, for working for five years in a rural area.

## Private Sewage Systems Study

Camrose County

Simple Majority

*Endorsed by the Edmonton East District*

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WHEREAS the Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice regulates private sewage system requirements, including property line setbacks; and

WHEREAS open discharge systems are an affordable type of private sewage system common to rural residences across the Province; and

WHEREAS the Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice regulations for setbacks on open discharge systems are based on the characteristics and quality of effluent leaving a septic tank;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties undertake a study at a cost to member municipalities, of the quality of effluent leaving septic tanks of open discharge private sewage systems in Alberta, to determine if the existing setback requirements can be reduced.**

### **Member Background**

Open discharge systems for private sewage are systems that release the liquid effluent from a septic tank into the surrounding soil for further treatment. These systems are common in rural areas and are often an affordable choice for private sewage treatment.

Camrose County has experienced controversy over the Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice regulations regarding open discharge systems.

When land is subdivided, existing open discharge systems must meet today's setback requirements to the "new" property lines. Camrose County is concerned with the setback of 90 meters (300 feet) which is required for the new property lines (Standard of Practice Section 8.6.2). The setback requirement is based on the characteristics and quality of effluent, soil types, and infiltration rates. This regulation creates the need for a larger subdivided parcel, or for significant upgrades to the private sewage system.

The ultimate concern is regarding the science behind the regulations. Open discharge systems are considered dangerous to the environment and regulations seem to be encouraging open discharge systems to disappear. Many residents in Camrose County have these systems but would like to subdivide their yard site out of their quarter section. The regulations and setback requirements are pressing issues for future development in the County.

Knowing the scientific state of water leaving the septic tank will allow for more constructive discussion about the regulations and the setback requirements. The Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice is Province-wide and therefore affects all Municipal Districts and Counties.

### **AAMDC Background**

In 2011, the AAMDC completed the revised Model Process for Subdivision Approval and Private Sewage. The updated Model Process document was originally developed in 2004 and provides a guide to assist municipalities in evaluating the suitability of sites for onsite septic systems during the subdivision and development application process. The revised Model Process documents are available on the AAMDC website.

## **Provincial Single Energy Regulator Accountability for Quality of Air and Water**

County of Grande Prairie

Simple Majority  
*Endorsed by the Northern District*

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WHEREAS the Province of Alberta has committed to the responsible protection of Alberta's air, land, water and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS Alberta's municipalities and their citizens have concerns with the quality of air and water as it relates to oil and gas industry facilities; and

WHEREAS the rules for monitoring and enforcing regulations with respect to environmental issues related to the oil and gas industry fall to both Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and the Energy Resources Conservation Board; and

WHEREAS the Province announced they will introduce legislation in the fall of 2012 for a Provincial Single Energy Regulator; and

WHEREAS Alberta's municipalities want to ensure that provincial standards for air and water quality in the Province are met; and

WHEREAS provincial policy does not clarify the responsible agency for enforcing standards with respect to air and water quality;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Province of Alberta to clearly define who is the responsible agency for monitoring and enforcing the quality of air and water when creating the Provincial Single Energy Regulator.**

### **Member Background**

When municipalities or private individuals have raised concerns with air quality in the vicinity of oil and gas facilities they have been directed to either Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development or the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB). There is no clear policy on which of these provincial entities enforces/monitors Provincial Standards related to air quality (odour) or water quality (pollutants).

### **AAMDC Background**

Resolution 17-10F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to conduct more research, provide more education and, where appropriate, introduce regulation (legislation) to ensure geothermal activity is not at the expense of other environmental considerations.

#### Development:

In responding to this resolution, the Government of Alberta agreed with the entire intent of this resolution, especially as it relates to the commonly-used closed loop geothermal systems. The response indicated that the number of deep vertical boreholes in closed loop systems presents a high risk for groundwater contamination. Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development committed funds for a technical survey of what would be needed to regulate this industry which was anticipated to be complete in late 2011. The AAMDC accepts this response in principle and will continue to monitor the progress of actions by the government in support of this resolution.

## **Community Aggregate Payment Levy Rate**

Thorhild County

Three-Fifths Majority  
*Endorsed by the Pembina River District*

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WHEREAS Section 409.1 of the Municipal Government Act, Chapter M-26, RSA 2000, authorizes the Council of a municipality to pass a community aggregate payment levy Bylaw; and

WHEREAS a community aggregate payment levy Bylaw authorizes the Council to impose a levy in respect of sand and gravel businesses operating in the municipality; and

WHEREAS the concept of "per tonne" payment by sand and gravel operators to the municipality where a pit is located was developed by a joint industry-government committee (Aggregate Resource Development Task Force) to help address industry and municipal concerns over the impact of sand and gravel operations on municipal infrastructure; and

WHEREAS Community Aggregate Payment Levy Regulation 263/2005 specifies a maximum levy of \$0.25 per tonne of sand and gravel which may be imposed under the Bylaw; and

WHEREAS municipal costs for infrastructure maintenance have increased significantly since the maximum levy rate was instituted in January of 2006; and

WHEREAS the market price of gravel has also increased dramatically since January of 2006 while the maximum community aggregate payment levy has remained unchanged; and

WHEREAS the increasing spread between maintenance costs due to sand and gravel operations and realizable levies under the community aggregate levy bylaw is eroding the ability of municipalities to keep pace with road maintenance needs;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Province of Alberta to review the maximum levy under a community aggregate payment levy bylaw of sand and gravel; and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Province of Alberta to institute a regular 5-year review and revision of the maximum community aggregate payment levy provision under Alberta Regulation 263/2005.**

### **Member Background**

Municipal infrastructure construction and maintenance costs have increased dramatically since 2006, whereas the maximum community aggregate payment levy rate has remained unchanged, despite a very substantial increase in market prices for sand and gravel.

The Community Aggregate Payment (CAP) Levy, Regulation 263/2005, came into effect Jan 1, 2006, and expires Dec. 31, 2015. The levy was supported by the Alberta Sand and Gravel Association, an organization that collaborated with the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties and the Alberta Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association to develop the Community Aggregate Payment Levy concept.

The regulation stipulates a maximum levy of \$0.25/tonne for sand and gravel aggregate. As the regulation does not contain a mechanism to adjust the levy rate maximum to reflect inflation, the ability of municipalities to address sand and gravel related infrastructure concerns is eroding with time. The County of Thorhild's cost of gravel inventory at January 1, 2006 was \$11.15/tonne, whereas the County's current cost of gravel is \$18/tonne, an increase of 61%.

## **AAMDC Background**

Resolution 15-10F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC encourage the Province of Alberta to develop a province wide strategy for the management of aggregate resources through the Provincial Land Use Framework; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that municipalities where the resource is located be given first priority when the Province of Alberta reviews applications for a Surface Material Exploration (SME) or Surface Material Lease (SML) on Crown Land.

### **Development:**

The AAMDC met with the Ministers of Environment and Water and Transportation in early 2012 and encouraged dialogue across ministries to find mutually beneficial solutions concerning aggregate resources and to determine a process for moving forward on this initiative. In addition, the AAMDC worked with Alberta Environment and Water and the Alberta Sand and Gravel Association in 2011 on a review of pit environmental assessment requirements and reclamation securities which recommended a further committee be formed to review the Code of Practice for Pits. While not related to the allocation of aggregate to municipalities, this work would assist in the overall management of aggregate resources in the province.

The AAMDC requested an update on this initiative during a recent meeting with Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and was advised that no progress had been made to date. Further, the AAMDC received correspondence indicating the subcommittee to review the Code of Practice for Pits would not be formed at this time. The association will continue to advocate on this issue and this status of this resolution remains as unsatisfactory.

Resolution 24-08F (expired): THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Province of Alberta to establish an Aggregate Payment Levy Review Committee to evaluate and consider changes to the maximum levy rate provided in section 5(2) of Community Aggregate Payment Levy Regulation 263/2005.

### **Development:**

A review of the Community Aggregate Payment Levy took place during 2010. AAMDC members were surveyed and the regulation enacting the levy was renewed under the current formula. To view the survey results from the AAMDC that were communicated to Municipal Affairs, please visit [www.aamdc.com](http://www.aamdc.com) and view the member bulletin from June 9, 2010. Since no flexibility or increase in the CAP levy rate was established during this review, the resolution status has been changed to unsatisfactory.

## **Sustainable Resource Development Appeals**

MD of Big Lakes

Simple Majority  
*Endorsed by the Northern District*

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WHEREAS local officers and officials of Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) have substantial local autonomy to approve, modify, impede, or deny elements of economic development; and

WHEREAS seeking to modify or repeal an ESRD determination can be a long, costly, time consuming, and convoluted process; and

WHEREAS substantial delays in many types of economic development projects is equivalent to outright killing the project, and often represents a major negative factor impacting the creation of jobs and economic growth;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties calls upon the Government of Alberta to establish a swift, easily accessed, citizen friendly and low cost appeals and modification mechanism that allows for impartial 3rd party adjudication, review and modification of Sustainable Resource Development directives, and that Alberta municipalities be granted input into and ultimately representation upon, these newly established adjudicating tribunals.**

### **Member Background**

The process to appeal and modify a local ruling by Sustainable Resource Development is long and torturous, requiring that many levels within the Sustainable Resource Development administrative structure be engaged, and ultimately often requires political intervention. Because of this, there is, as a practical matter, no ability to appeal “smaller” but none the less costly decisions by local Sustainable Resource Development Officials.

There is no logic to spend dozens of hours or tens of thousands of dollars to appeal a decision worth somewhat smaller amounts. Because of this, as a practical matter, there is no appeal to many Sustainable Resource Development decisions. In a democratic society, every decision of government should have an appeals mechanism - as citizens we have an absolute right to our “Day in Court” no matter how big or small the issue. The complexity and cost associated with trying to revise or revoke a Sustainable Resource Development decision effectively denies to us this right with respect to many Sustainable Resource Development decisions.

The resolution calls for our democratic right to appeal the decisions of our government to be restored with respect to Sustainable Resource Development by putting in place an appeals mechanism that is accessible, affordable and effective.

### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.



## **Insurance Coverage for Wildland Fire Fighting Costs**

County of Barrhead

Three-Fifths Majority  
*Endorsed by the Pembina River District*

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WHEREAS the Province of Alberta, Minister of Finance, is responsible for amendments to the Insurance Act of Alberta; and

WHEREAS there are no existing minimum standards in insurance policies for the payment of fire department charges in Alberta; and

WHEREAS the costs incurred by landowners for fire-fighting costs on uninsured property (eg. pasture land, bush land) are not always covered adequately by fire insurance policies in Alberta; and

WHEREAS Forest & Prairie Protection Endorsement is covered under Liability which by its definition the insured (land owner) must be negligent; and

WHEREAS according to the insurance companies' definition of Fire Department Charges, fire insurance policies are to cover costs incurred by the owner to extinguish a fire that is threatening or destroying an insured peril; and

WHEREAS the Forest & Prairie Protection Endorsement is to pay third party expenses, which the owner becomes obligated to pay by reason of liability imposed upon him/her by law or statute pursuant to the relevant provision of the Forest and Prairie Protection Acts of the Provinces of Canada;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Finance Minister, Government of Alberta to change the regulations to address the following matters:**

- a) Setting provincial standards for minimal coverage's for fire loss policies including expenses and fees for fire fighting, and**
- b) Expanding the Forest & Prairie Protection Endorsement definition to cover all expenses incurred, per occurrence, regardless of which authority level attends the fire, and**
- c) Removing the limitation of coverage with the term "negligent" being used within the liability section of policies in relation to the Forest and Prairie Protection Act.**

### **Member Background**

The costs involved with fighting fires in rural Alberta have been rising through the years. This has had a dual effect: first, there are now a number of rural municipalities that charge landowners with the costs involved in fighting fires; second, when these costs are charged the landowners have significant bills to pay. As well, the Provincial Government also has charged for their services, including water bombing.

Insurance policies for landowners are not always adequate to protect landowners from these costs which are largely out of their control. If a fire occurs on land or property that is not insured (eg: bush land or pasture), many policies will not cover the costs of extinguishing a fire on that property. Even coverage for extinguishing a fire that is covered is insufficient. Some policies only include \$1,000, which is not enough to pay the true costs of even a very small and quickly extinguished fire in a rural area. Clarity is required regarding fires that are caused by events or actions that are out of the control of the landowner (eg: lightning, arson, cigarettes being thrown out of cars, etc.).

Therefore, what is needed is for the Provincial Government to require insurance companies to have the following features included in their fire insurance policies for rural properties:

- To have a minimum standard level of coverage for Fire Department Charges. A suggested minimum coverage is \$10,000. Additional coverage can be purchased by the landowner for a nominal fee (average cost is \$1.25/\$100 of coverage).
- Forest & Prairie Protection Endorsement coverage is a coverage which would remain optional and landowners could continue to purchase this coverage for a minimal fee.
- To remove the Forest & Prairie Protection Endorsement from the Liability section in insurance policies, eliminating the “negligent” issue being used by insurers to deny claims.
- That regardless of which authority level responds to a fire which is not threatening or destroying an insured piece of property that the Forest & Prairie Protection Endorsement would respond to pay the costs by the landowner, to the maximum of their policy limit.
- This insurance should cover fires that are not caused by negligence on the part of the landowner, and which provide protection to landowners when events or actions beyond their control cause a wild fire on their land.

This issue affects rural municipalities directly, as landowners can and do have difficulty when charged for the costs from a fire department for extinguishing a fire destroying their insured property, or charges related to extinguishing a fire on bare land owned/leased or rented by the landowner. In the end it is the landowners’ responsibility to ensure that they have adequate coverage, but a standard of coverage and the removal of “negligence” from the equation will help to ensure that landowners are not faced with daunting costs. As we all try to manage our budgets municipalities can no longer afford to waive these fees.

### **AAMDC Background**

Resolution 12-10S: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that Alberta Sustainable Resource Development amend the Forest and Prairie Protection Act Section 7(1) by excluding fighting and controlling non-structural fires within occupied public lands from the responsibility of municipalities.

#### Development:

In its response to this resolution, the Government of Alberta claimed that it does not have the financial resources, equipment or manpower to fight nonstructural fires on occupied public lands. However, the crux of this resolution is that municipalities also do not have the appropriate resources and equipment to fight these fires. The notion that the municipality "may" be reimbursed for costs is insufficient. The AAMDC raised this issue at a meeting with then Minister Mel Knight, who noted that effective cooperation and coordination between SRD and municipalities is the most important aspect of fighting these types of fires. He advised that municipalities have historically received financial support from Treasury Board when they faced significant bills for firefighting assistance from SRD. Beyond this type of cooperation and financial assistance, the Minister was not prepared to seek changes at that time. The AAMDC raised this issue again at a recent meeting with the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development who indicated that these legislative amendments are not presently on the Government of Alberta's agenda. The AAMDC will continue to advocate on this issue.

## **Recruitment of Registered Nurses**

County of Newell

Simple Majority

*Endorsed by the Foothills-Little Bow District*

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WHEREAS it is difficult to recruit Registered Nurses to rural Alberta; and

WHEREAS the College & Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA) requires successfully recruited foreign trained nurses to undergo a document review and will not accept document reviews completed by other provinces; and

WHEREAS obtaining the original document from foreign countries can take months if the prospective nurse is not physically present in his/her country of origin; and

WHEREAS all Canadian educated Registered Nurses must successfully write the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination which gives them a license to practice independently; and

WHEREAS foreign trained nurses who pass this same exam must still complete 225 hours of supervised and satisfactory nursing prior to receiving a license even if they may already have several years of excellent experience;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the provincial government to work with the College & Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta to accept satisfactory document reviews completed by other provinces and to license foreign trained nurses when they successfully complete the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination.**

### **Member Background**

Registered Nurses are an integral part of a health care team. As is the case with physician recruitment, the recruitment of Registered Nurses to rural Alberta is difficult. Unfortunately, even when successful in recruiting foreign nurses, there are hurdles that these prospective nurses must overcome prior to practicing in Alberta regardless if they are already practicing in other provinces.

In Alberta, Registered Nurses are licensed by the College & Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA). All Canadian educated Registered Nurses must successfully complete the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination which gives them a license to practice independently. If a foreign nurse successfully completes this same exam, CARNA requires that they still complete 225 hours of supervised and satisfactory nursing prior to receiving a license, even if they already have several years of excellent experience elsewhere.

Foreign educated nurses are also required to undergo a document review by CARNA prior to receiving their license. CARNA will not accept a document review completed and accepted by another province even if these nurses are successfully practicing in that province. In some cases, obtaining the original document from foreign countries can take months if the prospective nurse is not physically present in his/her country of origin.

The additional requirements hinder the recruitment process and Alberta's competitiveness to recruit these foreign nurses. To alleviate this, the Province must work with CARNA to reduce these barriers.

Please note that a similar resolution was presented at the 2012 AUMA Convention by the City of Brooks and was carried.

### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

## **Blanket Winter Hauling Weights**

Westlock County

Simple Majority  
*Endorsed by the Pembina River District*

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WHEREAS the current method of obtaining Provincial overweight permits is expensive and time-consuming; and

WHEREAS the transportation industry is vital for the overall Alberta economy; and

WHEREAS in order for the transportation industry to be efficient, the ability to access quick overweight approvals is crucial to the profitability of the transportation industry; and

WHEREAS a blanket overweight permit threshold would provide immediate benefit to the transportation industry, to both the government and the private sectors; and

WHEREAS a small increase to the axle weight during the winter months would not have any significant adverse affect on the current transportation infrastructure;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties advocate the Government of Alberta to implement a blanket 10% increase to legal axle weights on provincial highways in conjunction with the Provincial Winter Weights Season and Guidelines.**

### **Member Background**

Oversize vehicles require both provincial and municipal approvals, so carriers often require multiple transactions for each move. The TRAVIS (Transportation Routing and Vehicle Information System) Multi-Jurisdiction (MJ) permitting system was developed by Alberta Transportation to support industry's need for a simplified permitting process. TRAVIS provides a single point of contract for applicants, with multipoint approvals.

The MJ permitting process begins with a client submitting an application using TRAVIS Web. The application includes carrier information, dates, vehicle data and requested route. TRAVIS can generate an optimal route if required. TRAVIS contains bridge capacities, dimensional, road bans and construction restriction data, and applies the restrictions as required.

Once provincial approval is granted, municipal business rules are applied to decide on automatic or manual review. If municipal review is required, municipalities review the application in MJ, adding conditions as required and approving or rejecting the application.

Source: TRAVIS Multi-Jurisdiction Oversize Vehicle Permitting System

Imants Krumins. M.SC., P. Eng.  
Transport Engineer, Alberta Transportation

Kerry Leslie, B.A.  
TRAVIS Specialist, Alberta Transportation

In accordance to Alberta Transportation, in the mid-eighties the Department had a program that would allow an increase of 10% for tandem axles for the winter months. However the general tolerance of 10% has since been removed and replaced with the current program. Alberta Transportation has an existing allowance tolerance of 500 kilograms for a single axle and 1,000 kilograms for a tandem axle for buildup of ice and snow.

The Provincial Winter Weights Program is established by recorded data collected at various provincial frost depths monitoring stations. Individual municipalities would have to establish a similar system in order to accommodate heavy traffic travelling onto their local roads.

**AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

## **Municipal Rights to Gravel Resources Under Municipal Road Allowances**

MD of Bonnyville

Three-Fifths Majority  
*Endorsed by the Edmonton East District*

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WHEREAS Section 16(1) of the Municipal Government Act reads, “*The title to all roads in a municipality, other than a city, is vested in the Crown in Right of Alberta*”; and

WHEREAS Section 58(1) of the Law of Property Act reads, “*The Owner of the surface is and is to be deemed at all times to have been the owner of and entitled to sand and gravel on the surface of that land, and all sand and gravel obtained by stripping off the overburden or excavating from the surface, or otherwise recovered by the surface operations*”; and

WHEREAS in Section 58(2) of the Law of Property Act reads, “*The sand and gravel referred to in Subsection (1) is deemed not to be mine, mineral or valuable stone but is deemed to be and have been part of the surface of the land and to belong to the owner of the surface*”; and

WHEREAS most Alberta municipalities are experiencing a lack of affordable gravel for the purpose of regular road maintenance and construction;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to amend Section 58 of the *Law of Property Act* to allow municipalities the first right at no cost to gravel resources on or under municipal road allowances for the purpose of municipal road maintenance and construction even though the land ownership of all public roads and road right of ways is vested in the Crown in the Right of Alberta.**

### **Member Background**

Like many other municipalities, the MD of Bonnyville presently buys gravel for road maintenance and construction from private suppliers. Also, like many other parts of the province gravel supplies are limited due to geography and private supplies are also becoming limited. As well gravel supplies in Alberta are being used by private purchasers for oil and gas development. All this creates a shortage and high costs for public road maintenance. Presently the MD of Bonnyville has a few areas where raw gravel supplies remain under road allowances but the MD is left trying to beat private gravel companies to negotiate with the province for the rights to excavate this gravel as it is owned by the Crown, not the municipality.

### **AAMDC Background**

Resolution 15-10F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC encourage the Province of Alberta to develop a province wide strategy for the management of aggregate resources through the Provincial Land Use Framework; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that municipalities where the resource is located be given first priority when the Province of Alberta reviews applications for a Surface Material Exploration (SME) or Surface Material Lease (SML) on Crown Land.

#### Development:

The AAMDC met with the Ministers of Environment and Water and Transportation in early 2012 and encouraged dialogue across ministries to find mutually beneficial solutions concerning aggregate resources and to determine a process for moving forward on this initiative. In addition, the AAMDC worked with Alberta Environment and Water and the Alberta Sand and Gravel Association in 2011 on a review of pit environmental assessment requirements and reclamation securities which recommended a further committee be formed to review the Code of Practice for

Pits. While not related to the allocation of aggregate to municipalities, this work would assist in the overall management of aggregate resources in the province.

The AAMDC requested an update on this initiative during a recent meeting with Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and was advised that no progress had been made to date. Further, the AAMDC received correspondence indicating the subcommittee to review the Code of Practice for Pits would not be formed at this time. The association will continue to advocate on this issue and this status of this resolution remains as unsatisfactory.



## **Wetland Restoration Program**

Lac Ste Anne County

Simple Majority  
*Endorsed by the Pembina River District*

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WHEREAS the Alberta Government presently has a Wetland Restoration Program, including a Compensation Guide in place; and

WHEREAS Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is currently the only Wetland Restoration Agency in Alberta; and

WHEREAS wetland restoration compensation paid by land developers, local governments and the public may be utilized at any location within the Province; and

WHEREAS the present Wetland Restoration Program requirements are too onerous (both financially and technically) for most municipalities to become recognized Wetland Restoration Agencies;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Provincial Government to amend the Wetland Restoration Program to enable municipalities through qualified professionals to undertake Wetland Restoration projects; and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Provincial Government to amend the Wetland Restoration Program requirements to allow the funding to be utilized for wetland restoration or other provincially acceptable uses, within the municipality from which the funding is collected.**

### **Member Background**

Lac Ste. Anne County approved an aggregate extraction development permit on five (5) quarter sections of land that affects Class I, II and III wetlands estimated to be an area of 5.24 hectares. A compensation ratio of 3:1 has been suggested therefore the compensation is estimated at 15.72 hectares at \$16,500.00/hectare or \$259,380.00 compensation.

The compensation of \$259,380.00 will very likely be utilized in other areas of the Province (southerly), as prioritized by Ducks Unlimited Canada.

The aggregate industry within Lac Ste. Anne County is continually scrutinized by local residents and the effects of aggregate mining are borne by Lac Ste. Anne County and its residents. Residents are continually questioning why off-setting contributions of funds are not retained within Lac Ste. Anne County to assist with local projects, either directly related to wetlands, or alternatively, related environmental projects that benefit the impacted municipalities and their residents.

The current Wetland Restoration Program is being reviewed by the Province therefore the suggested amendments within this resolution may be considered within this review.

### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

## Alberta Transmission System Facilities Planning Process

MD of Pincher Creek

Simple Majority

*Endorsed by the Foothills-Little Bow District*

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WHEREAS the Alberta Utilities Commission regulates the Alberta Electric System Operator; and

WHEREAS the Alberta Electric System Operator is responsible for the safe, reliable and economic operation of the province-wide electric transmission system, and is responsible for overall system planning and real-time operating the electric transmission system; and

WHEREAS provincial growth has increased the need for and the development of power plants and the associated transmission lines; and

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 632(1) of the Municipal Government Act, a Council of a municipality must adopt a municipal development plan that must address the future land use within the municipality, the manner and the proposals for future development in the municipality, and are therefore responsible for the orderly development of land and land uses within the municipality; and

WHEREAS within the current transmission line planning process, the municipality is not afforded the same authority as other government departments with respect to land use planning;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties work with the provincial government to direct the Alberta Utilities Commission in conjunction with the Alberta Electric System Operator to seek a formal municipal response to ensure that municipal plans are taken into account early in the planning process.**

### Member Background

The Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 (the MD) is the location of numerous wind power plants. As the development of wind power grew within the MD the development of the provincial transmission system did not keep pace.

Wind power development has now expanded throughout the province. This sudden rush for developments has required the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) to plan for the rapid expansion of the transmission system, an aging system that has not kept pace with current growth in the province.

Municipal councils are charged with the responsibility of providing for the orderly development of land and land uses within the municipality. The rules and regulations pertaining to various land uses are established within the planning documents of a municipality. These are long range planning tools developed by the residents of a municipality and reflect the community goals and values. Councils are continually using these tools for developing policies that are used on a daily basis by the municipality. These planning tools are available to any member of the public or any other organization to review and utilize.

As a result of the demand for transmission lines, municipalities all around the province are being notified of proposed numerous transmission routes at the same time as residents. As having a legislated role in the orderly planning of the land uses within their boundaries, Councils are not being utilized correctly within the planning process. It better serves the interests of the citizens of the province if municipalities are consulted in the initial steps of the planning process so that they can provide the local views and insights to ensure that any planned transmission system meets the needs of the province without sacrificing the goals and values of the municipality.

## **AAMDC Background**

Resolution ER1-11F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the provincial government put all critical transmission projects on hold until a comprehensive cost benefit review is completed.

### Development:

Premier Redford established a Critical Transmission Review Committee to review two power lines and make recommendations related to the approval and costs of transmission lines in general. The Critical Transmission Review Committee report, *Powering Our Economy*, recommended the use of a competitive procurement process for future critical transmission infrastructure projects. However, because not all projects have been put on hold and a cost-benefit analysis is not underway, the AAMDC finds this resolution status to be unsatisfactory.

AAMDC highlighted the need to ensure municipal long-term plans are taken into account in the 2010 report, *Rural Impacts of High Speed Rail*.

## Preservation and Protection of Potable Water

County of Grande Prairie

Three-Fifths Majority  
*Endorsed by the Northern District*

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WHEREAS potable water in the province of Alberta is a limited and depleting natural resource; and

WHEREAS water wells are drying up in different areas of the Province requiring water be transported into rural residences and business, at their own cost, to ensure a water source to carry on their daily activities and provide drinking water; and

WHEREAS some towns and villages are experiencing a decline in their water supply wells and are approaching other municipalities for help regarding lack of water for potable and drinking purposes on an increasing regular basis; and

WHEREAS Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development continues to grant temporary water licenses for the use of potable water in the hydro-fracturing process; and

WHEREAS the approval of temporary licenses can be used to bypass the public process required in a long term license application;

WHEREAS Alberta's *Water for Life* Strategy has three main goals being;

- Safe, secure drinking water;
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems; and
- Reliable, quality water supplies for sustainable economy;

Alberta's commitment to the *Water for Life* approach ensures wise management of Alberta's water resources for the benefit of Albertan's.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Province of Alberta create policy to eliminate the use of potable water for hydraulic fracturing, recognizing that potable water is a depleting resource and that hydraulic fracturing is an enormous waste of this much needed resource required for the health and welfare of Alberta's citizens.**

### Member Background

The County of Grande Prairie has noted the increase in requests for temporary water diversion licenses to use potable water for hydraulic fracturing. Temporary licenses do not require public consultation. These temporary licenses provide for significant amount of potable water to be used. The County of Grande Prairie No. 1 believes that potable water is a depleting resource that should not be used when alternate sources such as non-potable water are available. The County of Grande Prairie No. 1 is also aware of towns and villages within the County experiencing a decline in their water supply wells creating the need to search for more expensive alternative sources.

### AAMDC Background

Potable Water, as defined in Section 1(zz) of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, means water that is supplied by a waterworks system and is used for drinking, cooking, dish washing or other domestic purposes requiring water that is suitable for human consumption.

Groundwater, as defined in Section 1(y) of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, means all water under the surface of the ground.

Resolution 1-11F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC request the Government of Alberta implement an immediate reduction schedule leading to the cessation of the use of fresh water to the oil and gas industry for the hydro-fracking and water injection process in all areas of Alberta as fresh water is required for human consumption.

Development:

While both the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and the Ministry of Energy note policies are either in place or under review to encourage minimal use of fresh water for the extraction of oil and gas reserves, neither indicates that a total cessation is contemplated or feasible. As such, the AAMDC finds this response unsatisfactory and will continue to advocate on this issue through ministerial meetings and encourage AAMDC to raise this issue during the Government of Alberta's water consultations that are anticipated in fall 2012.

Resolution 7-07F (expired): THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties requests that the Government of Alberta implement an immediate moratorium on new water licenses for deep well flooding with fresh groundwater, in all areas of the province where groundwater IS AND MAY BE required for human consumption; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to implement a one-year timetable for the cancellation of existing water licenses that allow deep well flooding with fresh groundwater, in all areas of the province where groundwater IS AND MAY BE required for human consumption; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties draft a petition based on these two clauses and send it out to municipalities who want to participate, so that the will of the people can be expressed on this vital issue.

Development:

The AAMDC distributed a petition document to the membership in the spring of 2008 which was then submitted to the government. In its response to the petition, the Government noted it will conduct an in-depth review of the results of the 2006 Water Conservation and Allocation Policy for Oilfield Injection over the next 1-2 years. This policy requires a shift from fresh water to saline water or alternative sources whenever possible. In accordance with this policy, the oil and gas industry reviewed its Water Act licences to identify opportunities for reductions in water allocations and actual use.

This was completed in 2008, and resulted in a 50 per cent reduction in industry allocation of deemed licences. Further, since 1972, non-saline water used for enhanced oil recovery projects has decreased by 75 per cent. The AAMDC received a letter on this issue from the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) in April 2010. In this letter, CAPP discusses these reductions in non-saline water use. CAPP notes that water licensing decisions are subject to policy and regulatory considerations that balance all environmental considerations. CAPP does not support a moratorium as called for in this resolution, but is developing a sector water conservation, efficiency and productivity plan.

## **Public Access to Alberta Lakes and Rivers**

Leduc County

Three-Fifths Majority  
*Endorsed by the Pembina River District*

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WHEREAS lakes and rivers in the Province of Alberta are important resources to all Albertans for quality of life; and

WHEREAS provincial legislation is necessary to prevent the sale, lease or closure of existing public lands held by the province and municipalities adjacent to lakes and rivers to ensure these important resources can be accessed by the public; and

WHEREAS provincial legislation is required to ensure municipalities who have leased municipal reserves adjacent to Alberta lakes and rivers to private citizens are required to return these public lands back to the public domain; and

WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act allows road closures there needs to be regulations established to ensure roads providing access to Alberta lakes and rivers remain open for public travel;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Province of Alberta to strengthen provincial legislation to provide and protect existing public access to Alberta lakes and rivers by protecting existing public lands.**

### **Member Background**

Through good planning the province has established strategic public lands adjacent to rivers and lakes to allow all Albertans to access. This would include lands such as crown land, municipal reserves, environmental reserves and roads.

The Lakes and rivers are important to all Albertans for their enjoyment and quality of life. The majority of lands adjacent to lakes and rivers are privately owned. The limited public accesses are being overrun by a very high number of Albertans who want to use these valuable water resources.

The problem is private citizens are requesting to purchase crown land from the province. These lands should not be sold as they are needed now or will be required in the future.

Municipalities have established municipal reserves adjacent to lake shores to provide public access. These public lands on occasion are being sold or leased to private citizens who become the sole user of the public land and thereby not allowing Albertans public access. This practice is very unfair to the general public as it favors a few private individuals. Plus this practice limits the overall public access and results in extremely overcrowding of the few remaining public accesses.

### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

## **Regulation of Ice Fishing Huts on Alberta Lakes**

Lacombe County

Simple Majority  
*Endorsed by the Central District*

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WHEREAS Alberta's lakes are a valuable natural resource for all Albertans that must be used in a sustainable manner to ensure the long-term benefits are preserved for future generations; and

WHEREAS the wide variety of recreational uses on these lakes creates environmental challenges and results in potentially conflicting uses that need to be managed: and

WHEREAS an increasing number of fisherman engage in ice fishing on these lakes due to Alberta's rapid population growth and the popularity of the sport has resulted in the placement of a record number of ice fishing shelters or huts on our lakes; and

WHEREAS many of these ice huts are left after the end of the seasons despite current legislation that prohibits the unlawful disposal of waste; and

WHEREAS these abandoned huts result in number of negative consequences including pollutants in our lakes, hazards for other lake users such as boaters and swimmers, unsightly debris on our lakeshores, and risks for those who are left with the task of removing these abandoned huts; and

WHEREAS legislation in other provinces of Canada that requires the mandatory registration of ice huts has proven successful in controlling this problem;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to provide increased education and enforcement with regard to responsible ice fishing including the introduction of a mandatory registration program for ice fishing huts to assist in their timely removal from Alberta lakes.**

### **Member Background**

Section 181 of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* prohibits the deposit of waste on ice or into water. Despite the legislation, many huts are being abandoned on Alberta lakes. For example, after the 2010-2011 ice fishing season there were still approximately 50 huts left on central Alberta lakes. Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development does attempt to remove some of these huts, sometimes under hazardous conditions, but still many sink into the lake or end up as debris on the shoreline.

In 2012 the Sylvan Lake Management Committee, a partnership of municipalities around the lake, spearheaded a voluntary registration program with the cooperation of Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and the local RCMP. Registration of huts will allow authorities to contact their owners if they are left on the lake after the end of the season. They can either arrange for the removal of these huts or be held accountable under the legislation.

### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

## **Sustaining Alberta's Energy Value Chain**

Lamont County, Strathcona County, Sturgeon County

Simple Majority

*Endorsed by the Pembina River and Edmonton East Districts*

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WHEREAS Alberta is a global storehouse of energy assets, and energy development is the largest contributor to the provincial GDP (25.7%); and

WHEREAS the provincial energy industry is a nationally strategic sector, accounting for 25% of the value of the Toronto Stock Exchange; and

WHEREAS there is global market demand for Alberta's energy resources and products; and

WHEREAS current projections show that the ratio of value added products to raw bitumen exports is declining as production ramps up; and

WHEREAS Alberta has a tremendous opportunity to sustain and stabilize its economy by strengthening and lengthening the energy value chain in the province; and

WHEREAS it is in everyone's interest to expand Alberta's energy sector value chain;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Alberta government to re-affirm its commitment to expand the energy value chain consistent with the Alberta Energy Strategy, Launching Alberta's Energy Future; and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta government advocate for the concept of value creation from natural resources in Canada into any proposed Canadian energy policy framework; and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta government work with industry to address the potential constraint of labour shortages and cost competitiveness that might inhibit major value added projects and economic prosperity for its citizens.**

### **Member Background**

Alberta is home to Canada's world class petrochemical hub. Oilsands and unconventional natural gas are abundant in the province and new technologies to unlock these resources have resulted in huge production growth.

In 2010 crude oil production levels were 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd), of which about 75% is bitumen from oil sands. The development of this resource is estimated to see production volumes rise to 3.5 million barrels per day by 2020. ([Launching Alberta's Energy Future – Provincial Energy Strategy](#))

The province has the technology, internationally recognized energy companies, skilled workforce, and resource diversity to produce a range of products along the energy value chain.

As energy production is increasing in Alberta, the ratio of value added products to raw bitumen exports has been declining. Without an intentional policy to facilitate the expansion of the value chain the opportunities for future generations may be diminished.

Expanding the value chain will provide several strategic benefits to Alberta that include:

- greater wealth creation from resources
- well paying jobs and greater economic activity throughout the province, creating a stable labour force over the long term
- a hedge against low raw product prices



- improving environmental outcomes using new technologies in Alberta.

### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

## **Obligation to Consult**

MD of Big Lakes

Three-Fifths Majority  
*Endorsed by the Northern District*

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WHEREAS the Courts have established an “Obligation to Consult” with First Nations; and

WHEREAS this “obligation” is currently poorly defined and extremely unclear as to scope, financial ramifications, process, definitions, and timelines; and

WHEREAS this uncertainty and lack of clarity has damaged and delayed many sectors of the economy, most specifically the energy sector, and represents a substantial impediment to job creation and economic growth;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties calls upon the Government of Alberta and/or Government of Canada to establish a legislative framework to define this “Obligation to Consult” and that this legislative framework must address the following matters:**

- **Establishes terms and conditions respecting who must be consulted with, and under what circumstances, and to provide for a mechanism for the swift disposal of unsubstantiated, frivolous and nuisance claims;**
- **Provides cost and time certainty to the process;**
- **Ensures a process that provides equal and fair access to employment and project tendering for all Albertans; and**
- **Provides for speedy and swift binding arbitration if the parties cannot agree upon the outcome of these “consultations”.**

### **Member Background**

When the courts impose a sweeping change to the legal landscape, as they have with the “Obligation to Consult” - a period of chaos usually results. A period of time when there are no rules, just guiding principles from the courts.

Municipalities, citizens and businesses, are now aware of this “Obligation to Consult” but nobody seems to actually know what this means in hard, practical, real world terms.

- What constitutes a legitimate First Nations Claim?
- What constitutes an illegitimate First Nations Claim?
- Are there cost associated with the process?
- Can municipalities be forced to pay for consultations?
- To what degree will First Nations have a “right” to employment on projects?
- How and under what situations will non-First Nations workers and contractors be displaced and disqualified?
- What happens if the parties cannot agree?
- Can the “Obligation to Consult” delay a project forever?

There is a vast list of unknowns and very little that IS known.

By calling upon the Alberta Government to establish a legislated, defined and regulated framework for this “Obligation to Consult” process, to end the vast uncertainty that is standing in the way of many projects, especially in the energy sector, that could create jobs and wealth for many Albertans.

## **AAMDC Background**

Resolution 8-09F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC), urge the Province of Alberta to clearly articulate its intent and direction with respect to First Nations consultation and where the Government intends to require consultation, that a "one window", multi-departmental First Nations consultative process be implemented that provides for fair and timely decisions.

### **Development:**

The Government of Alberta's First Nations Consultation Policy and Guidelines on Land Management and Resource Development are under review. Both Associations were invited to participate in the review by leading consultation with our respective members. Formal input from First Nations, Aboriginal organizations, industry associations, municipal governments and associations has been received. The government has worked with Alberta's three treaty organizations to receive final input in the policy review during 2011. An update on the draft policy is expected in late 2012, with a final policy to follow. As the process moves forward, the AAMDC will revisit this resolution to ensure new policy developments continue to meet its intent.

## **Quality of Food Served in Rural Continuing Care Homes**

MD of Willow Creek

Simple Majority

*Endorsed by the Foothills-Little Bow District*

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WHEREAS the residents of rural continuing care homes are typically permanent residents of these facilities; and

WHEREAS the quality of life for our seniors citizens who live in rural continuing care home must be maintained at the highest level; and

WHEREAS in the past, the food served to our seniors in these facilities was obtained locally where ever possible and cooked on site; and

WHEREAS Alberta Health Services has changed the provision of food services to mass produced, frozen, prepared foods with some fresh options in order to save money and standardize the meals across the province; and

WHEREAS the quality of the food served in these facilities is far below the quality of locally produced cooked meals and there is no costs savings realized from this change;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Province of Alberta to allow for the return to previous food services and practices in rural continuing care homes through the provision of home cooked meals for our senior residents.**

### **Member Background**

Continuing care homes are usually the final home for many of Alberta's seniors who require 24 hour care. One of the most important things to all of us, including our seniors is good quality food and the good health and enjoyment that home cooked meals bring.

Over the past three years, Alberta Health Services made significant changes to the food service provided to the seniors residing at these facilities by removing certified chefs, removing kitchen equipment and supplies and replacing much of the home cooked meals with frozen dinners trucked in to the facility by Sysco Foods. Many of the ingredients in these frozen dinners are not even products of Canada, let alone products of Alberta or locally grown foods. Many ingredients are manufactured, frozen and shipped from the eastern seaboard of the United States. These food trays are then heated and served to the residents. While there are some additional items offered to residents such as fresh fruit and vegetables, the fare being served today in these facilities is a far cry from the quality of the home cooked meals that were served just three short years ago.

The reasoning behind the changes was to standardize the meals and to save money. It is understood that there are no cost savings to the new system and while meals are standardized, they have lowered the quality in those facilities that were renowned for serving delicious "home cooked" meals.

### **AAMDC Background**

Resolution 5-09F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Province of Alberta and Alberta Health and Wellness to maintain auxiliary extended care beds, assisted and designated assisted care living beds, within their communities so seniors can feel secure and comfortable and receive proper and compassionate health care, as well as maintaining a connection with their family, friends, and home communities.

Development:

In previous Advocacy Report Card developments, this resolution had been deemed as accepted, due to the commitment that the provincial government's 5-year Health Action Plan made to provide more choice for continuing care. Specifically, enhancing access, co-ordination and standards for continuing care through the development and implementation of a 5-year plan for continuing care.

However, in 2012, a senior's care facility in Carmangay was closed with little notice and patients in the facility were moved away from the community to find spots in other facilities. These actions show a discrepancy between the plans that are in place and the decisions being made on the ground. As such, the AAMDC will continue to advocate for the maintenance and development of seniors facilities in rural Alberta.

## **Infrastructures Located Under Provincial Primary and Secondary Highways**

County of Paintearth

Simple Majority  
*Endorsed by the Central District*

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WHEREAS many communities within Alberta due to their locations find it necessary to have underground infrastructures located under Primary and Secondary Highways which run through or adjacent to them; and

WHEREAS the responsibility of maintenance, repair or replacement of the underground infrastructures falls onto the local urban or rural jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS the responsibility of maintenance, repair and replacement of Primary and Secondary Highways falls under the jurisdiction of the Province of Alberta; and

WHEREAS the traffic which uses the Primary and Secondary Highways usually are passing through, however the effect of the traffic and the loads which they carry does have an impact on the underground infrastructures owned by the local municipal jurisdiction;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Province of Alberta to review the possibility of developing a cost sharing program for the maintenance, repair and replacement of underground infrastructures with local municipal jurisdictions where underground infrastructures are located under Primary and Secondary Highways.**

### **Member Background**

Rural and urban municipalities are faced with upgrading deteriorating municipal infrastructure under primary and secondary highways. For example in 2009, the Town of Two Hills had experienced multiple water breaks along Highway 36 which stalled and detoured the heavy loads for seven days. Municipalities have petitioned the Ministry of Transportation to assist with the financial burden. This is a provincial matter due to the primary and secondary highways that have local infrastructure under these highways. The goal of this resolution is to encourage the Province of Alberta to develop a policy and a financial assistance program, to assist municipalities where infrastructures are located under Provincial highways and require replacement or realignment.

### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

## 9-1-1 Pocket Dials

MD of Taber

Simple Majority

*Endorsed by the Foothills-Little Bow District*

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WHEREAS the significant rise in cell phone use has resulted in a rise in the number of misdialled or accidental calls to 9-1-1; and

WHEREAS unintentional calls from wireless devices to 9-1-1 services account for up to 35% of all 9-1-1 calls received by emergency call centers in some jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS unintentional calls from wireless devices are attributable in most cases to the ability of the handset to be programmed to dial 9-1-1 with the depression of a single button; and

WHEREAS so-called “pocket dials” are a significant drain on policing resources, both from a 9-1-1 call centre standpoint, and also in terms of police operational resources, to determine if the caller is in danger; and

WHEREAS Industry Canada and the Canadian Radio-Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) regulates telecommunication hardware licensed to be sold in Canada;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal District and Counties request that Industry Canada and the Canadian Radio-Telecommunications Commission immediately address the sale of all mobile handsets that support single button access to 9-1-1 emergency services and that a requirement for future handsets sold in Canada include a minimum two button push with a call confirmation or acknowledgement for access to 9-1-1 emergency services.**

### **Member Background**

With the manufacturing of single button emergency dial handsets for sale in Canada we have seen rising percentages of pocket dialed 9-1-1 calls. Percentages of false 9-1-1 calls have been reported and published as being as high as 37.33% in Canada.

These pocket dialed calls tie up police and emergency services needlessly and in turn take away critical resources from real emergencies. The most effective approach to reducing 9-1-1 calls dialed in error is to manage access by regulating manufactures and providing education for mobile users on dialing 9-1-1 and on “what to expect?”

The problem with so called “pocket dialed” 9-1-1 calls has reached a critical point, and with the explosive growth of smart phones with numerous features and applications specifically designed to dial 9-1-1 quickly, the impact on the proper handling of ‘real’ emergencies is being comprised too often.

In 2007, at the direction of FPT (Federal, Provincial, Territorial) Ministers responsible for Justice, the Deputy Ministers Responsible for Justice authorized the creation of an ad hoc FPT committee to examine the extent to which 9-1-1 abuse may be interfering with the ability of 9-1-1 emergency systems to process and address real emergency calls. In April 2008, the “Report of the Ad Hoc CCSO - 911/PSAP Administrators Committee on Abuse of 911 Emergency Systems” was released and noted that unintentional 9-1-1 calls represented an average of 16% of calls received.

In April 2011, the Calgary Public Safety Communications Centre launched a public awareness campaign to highlight the issue of unintentional 9-1-1 calls, noting that roughly 300 of the 1000 daily calls required additional work and were not “real” emergencies. Edmonton reviewed and reported a similar trend.

Today, the percentages are reported at 35% or higher, and it is clear this upward trend will continue unless very specific action is taken at both the handset manufacturer level to engineer out this problem, and with the public to stop programming or using applications that one button dial 9-1-1.

Throughout Alberta, and in fact Canada, this preventable problem is tying up 9-1-1 call takers, and results in extensive use of limited emergency resources (especially the police) to ensure that the call in fact is unintentional. While resources are inappropriately busy with this issue, response to 'real' emergencies continues to be affected and this trend means additional 9-1-1 and emergency response personnel will have to be added to ensure the overall system is not compromised.

Within the Municipal District of Taber up to 100% of all 9-1-1 calls are unintentionally placed, with a majority being from wireless handsets. In some cases it has taken an RCMP officer an entire shift to locate an individual who inadvertently placed a call to the 9-1-1 call center. It is the policy of first responders to seek out the individual to ensure that an emergency does not exist.

Unintentionally placed calls to 9-1-1 from wireless handsets can be reduced by eliminating single dial button programming of 9-1-1 and by educating the public on the proper use of the 9-1-1 system.

Statistics and Articles:

The Toronto Police Service received 1,227,791 calls to 9-1-1 in 2011. 1 in 5 calls were not valid emergencies. Pocket dials accounted for 107,748, or half of the false calls; misdialled calls to 9-1-1 (116,770) accounted for the remainder.

York Regional Police received 97,886 unintentional 9-1-1 calls from wireless devices in 2011, accounting for 37.33% of all 9-1-1 calls received.

London Police Service received 6,622 pocket dials from August to November, 2011, averaging 11.24% of total 9-1-1 calls.

Peel Regional Police received 80,724 unintentional 9-1-1 calls from wireless devices between June 1st, 2011 and December 31st, 2011, accounting for 33% of the 9-1-1 calls received.

<http://www.digitalhome.ca/2012/01/unintentional-pocket-calls-to-9-1-1-a-growing-problem-in-ontario/>

"In 2010 the Prince George RCMP received 753 False or Abandoned 9-1-1 calls. In 2011, that number increased to 1216, a 61.5 % increase."

<http://bc.rcmp.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=50&languageId=1&contentId=25087>

"...30 per cent of all calls to 9-1-1 in Calgary - about 300 a day."

<http://www.calgarycitynews.com/2011/04/emergency-communications-officer-talks.html>

### **AAMDC Background**

Resolution 21-11F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta pass legislation compelling cellular telephone service providers operating in Alberta to collect a monthly cellular 911 call answer fee from its subscribers and remit those revenues to the municipalities operating 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPS).

Development:

The Government of Alberta response indicated that a cross-ministry group, led by the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, is currently analyzing options to support the ongoing development of 911. This review includes an analysis of approaches to 911 in other jurisdictions and various recommendations from 911 call centre operators. The AAMDC finds this response unsatisfactory as the review noted has been protracted with no tangible updates or outcomes



received. The AAMDC will continue to pursue this issue and anticipates that it may come up as part of the Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) review of EMS.

## **Access to Health Care and Economic Development**

MD of Big Lakes

Simple Majority  
*Endorsed by the Northern District*

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WHEREAS poor rural access to many basic health care services forces large numbers of citizens to leave their home areas to seek needed medical care in larger urban areas; and

WHEREAS the “out of market” shopping that often results from this medically driven travel drains enormous sums of money out of rural economies; and

WHEREAS the enormous financial costs of travel to and from medical services represent a substantial financial burden on rural Alberta; and

WHEREAS local rural economies would be greatly strengthened and their long term sustainability enhanced if these medically driven out of region trips were reduced;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties calls upon the Government of Alberta to acknowledge that a lack of accessibility in rural Alberta to many basic health services has enormous negative financial implications above and beyond the human and health costs and that enormous financial hardships caused by this lack of health care services be considered when establishing appropriate medical services for rural communities.**

### **Member Background**

Each year, countless thousands of rural Albertans are literally forced to leave their home area and travel, often hundreds of kilometers, to seek needed medical care on relatively low level and routine medical matters.

In addition to the huge time and financial burden this places upon individuals and families that need this medical care, there is also a huge financial cost to the rural community. The greatest economic challenge many small rural communities face is that vast sums of local wealth is drained out of the community by out of market shopping in the large urban centres. When medical necessity forces additional out of market trips, these extra trips often become incremental shopping opportunities above and beyond the existing “market bleed” that already places a substantial economic burden upon rural and small urban communities. This becomes a self-reinforcing cycle where more and more out of region shopping further damages local retail, further reducing price competitiveness and available selection, which causes yet more out of market shopping...

We call upon the Alberta government to recognize that municipal sustainability for rural Alberta is closely tied to the availability of medical services, and that the economic costs outside the strictly medical sphere be considered when medical services levels are reviewed and established for rural communities.

### **AAMDC Background**

Resolution 6-12S: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC actively encourage the Government of Alberta to fully attend to its federally and provincially legislated responsibilities of providing sufficient funding, staffing and programming so that there are enough physicians and other medical support staff in place to deliver universal and accessible health care in all of Alberta.

Development:

The AAMDC acknowledges the work that the provincial and federal government have made toward ensuring access to medical staff in all areas of the province. The Association is aware that

a doctor shortage is a problem that takes many years to fix, and acknowledges the work that is already being done to achieve this. Federally, the AAMDC was pleased to see an announcement stating that doctors that choose to work in a rural area can earn up to \$40,000 worth of forgiveness on student loans. This is a significant incentive for new doctors to move to rural areas, and the association is pleased with the initiative. The AAMDC will follow up with the Rural Physician Action Plan, as well as through formal minister meetings to ensure that this issue remains top of mind.

Resolution 2-10F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties encourage the Provincial Government, through Alberta Health and Wellness, to consent to pay travel expenses for out-of-province physicians willing to investigate relocating to "Communities in Need".

Development:

At recent meetings with the Minister, it was brought to the attention of the AAMDC that there is funding available for out-of-province expenses. Up to \$10,000 is available, though applications for funding must be made in advance of the expenses being incurred. With this development, the intent of the resolution has been fulfilled, and the AAMDC gives this resolution the status of accepted.

In 2012, the federal government announced further incentives to attract doctors to rural Canada. Both doctors and nurses will have access of up to \$40,000 or \$20,000 respectively, for working for five years in a rural area.

Resolution 18-09F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties advocate the Province to ensure the rural health care system is maintained, and that all decision-making processes and future intentions be transparent and thus sufficiently acknowledge the interests of rural municipalities and all rural Albertans.

Development:

As follow up to recommendations outlined in the January 2010 report from the Minister's Advisory Committee on Health (MACH), the government is developed *Becoming the Best: Alberta's 5-Year Health Action Plan*. The plan included developing a set of principles, creating an Alberta Health Act, and ensuring ongoing citizen engagement in the development of other legislation, regulations and policies. In November 2010, the Government of Alberta unveiled detailed targets to measure the effectiveness and drive further improvements to the health care system.

The *Alberta Health Act* has been passed by the Legislative Assembly and requires the Minister to establish a Health Charter and Health Advocate, which were recommendations in *Putting People First*. Pending further consultation and in light of the foregoing, the AAMDC accepts in principle the response to the intent of this resolution. However, health care continues to be top of mind for Albertans and the AAMDC will monitor progress and participate in consultation to ensure rural perspectives are represented.

## **Modernization of Seed Cleaning Plants**

Beaver County

Simple Majority

*Endorsed by the Edmonton East District*

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WHEREAS presently most seed cleaning plants are in need of improvements to meet the current needs of today's grain producers; and

WHEREAS when producers received a reasonable price for their grain, relative to their expenses, seed cleaning plants charged fees that adequately covered operational and maintenance expenses; and

WHEREAS over the past several years the narrowing of profit margins for producers, and seed cleaning plants holding their fees low to retain a slim profit margin for the producer, it has created a situation where most plants are near obsolete with an inability to ever afford to modernize; and

WHEREAS most local municipalities have identified this dilemma for the plants and have provided just enough funding to keep the plants surviving, but not to fully modernize; and

WHEREAS the prolonged lack of financial support at the provincial and federal government level is leading to a gradual demise of existing seed cleaning plants;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the provincial and federal governments provide financial assistance to seed cleaning plant cooperatives to modernize their facilities to meet the current local needs of grain producers.**

### **Member Background**

In the establishment years of Alberta Seed Cleaning Plants the provincial government offered cost shared grants to municipalities to either establish new seed cleaning plants, or cover upgrades to existing ones. All forms of provincial government financial support to seed cleaning plants ended by 1996. During this period this initiative proved very beneficial to both the agricultural producers, municipalities and the Province. In 2008 a 5-year Federal/Provincial/Territorial initiative called Growing Forward was introduced. Due to tremendous interest, relevant programs such as Agri-Business Automation and Lean Manufacturing, are no longer accepting applications for the 2012-2013 fiscal year as the budget has been fully committed.

### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

## **Non-Contiguous Additions to Reserve Lands**

County of Vermilion River

Simple Majority

*Endorsed by the Edmonton East District*

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WHEREAS the Federal Government in cooperation with the Alberta Provincial Government increases the size of First Nations reserves from time to time; and

WHEREAS the land proposed to be added to the First Nations reserve may be Crown lands or non-Crown lands owned by a First Nation and forming part of a municipality; and

WHEREAS parcels proposed to be added to a First Nations reserve often are not contiguous to existing First Nations reserve lands; and

WHEREAS creation of First Nations reserve land has an effect on municipal planning in many cases, especially if the land in question is bordering municipal development either urban or rural; and

WHEREAS converting parcels of land, non-contiguous with an existing First Nations reserve, to reserve status, will result in adjacent landowners being subject to differing regulations;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Province of Alberta to not allow parcels of land which are not contiguous with existing First Nations reserve lands to become reserve lands.**

### **Member Background**

Many municipalities have First Nations reserves located within the municipal boundary or bordering their municipality. It has been the past practice of the Federal Government in cooperation with the Provincial Government, to increase the size of these reserves. In some instances, the land proposed to be added to the First Nation Reserve is not contiguous to the existing reserve lands. Such parcels may not be Crown lands, but rather lands acquired by a business corporation, owned by the First Nation. The designation of such parcels of reserve lands affects neighbouring urban and rural municipalities. The lands added to the reserve in many cases may cause problems with proper land use planning and regulation, issues with respect to road access to lands for development, access to major waterways, or main lines such as gas lines for municipal purposes, payment for services requested, and adjoining parcels of land being subject to differing regimes. In addition, the municipality is expected to provide services to the new reserve lands pursuant to a service agreement. However, due to the laws applicable to First Nation Reserves, the municipality will not have available to it the tools and remedies usually relied upon by a municipality to ensure performance of such an agreement to provide services.

Such parcels of land need not be added to a First Nations reserve in order to be developed more intensively.

### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.









**Mackenzie County  
Action List as of October 30, 2012**

***Council Meeting Motions Requiring Action***

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Action By</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>August 11, 2009 Council Meeting</b>			
09-08-643	That administration pursue the federal government in order to acquire a portion of the land for the third phase of the Fort Vermilion Walking Trail project as discussed.	Joulia Bill	In progress
<b>February 13, 2012 Regular Council Meeting</b>			
12-02-103	That Policy RESV018 Water Reserve Fund be TABLED to the next meeting.	John Alison	Budget Deliberations
<b>February 29, 2012 Regular Council Meeting</b>			
12-02-144	That administration and the Municipal Planning Commission obtains public input to permit a minimum lot size of 55' X 100' for single family residential lots and a minimum lot size 60' X 100' for multiple family lots as well as altering the side yard setbacks to maximize useable yard area in conjunction with the Area Structure Plan reviews.	Byron	To be completed during review of ASP's
<b>April 20, 2012 Special Council Meeting</b>			
12-04-277	That the dust control fees be reviewed during 2013.	John	2013 Budget Review (November 5 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>May 23, 2012 Council Meeting</b>			
12-05-347	That administration be authorized to proceed with the negotiations for the purchase of Section 27-106-13-5 as authorized in Council Motion 12-03-177. (landfill site)	Bill	In progress
12-05-368	That administration be authorized to enter into leases with Alberta Health Services for the ambulance buildings as presented.	Joulia	In progress
<b>June 12, 2012 Council Meeting</b>			
12-06-398	That administration be authorized to proceed with a request to Alberta Transportation to provide funding and install the culverts at the intersection of AJA Road and Highway 697 along the Seven Mile Road on Highway 58.	Bill John Grant	Location for culvert was determined with AT (8 mile road)
<b>July 9, 2012 Council Meeting</b>			
12-07-467	That administration prepares and distributes an information letter to all affected ratepayers regarding the residential waste collection procedure and pricing.	Joulia	Letter to be delivered along with bin delivery
12-07-473	That \$135,000 be included in the 2013 budget for	Alison	In progress

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Action By</b>	<b>Status</b>
	the Fort Vermilion Spray Park (recirculating system) project based on a 50/50 share of the estimated cost of \$350,000.00.		FV Rec Board applied for WED grant.
12-07-494	That administration proceed as discussed regarding the access to Plan 0023789, Block 1, Lot 1.	Bill John Byron	30-Oct-12
<b>July 25, 2012 Council Meeting</b>			
12-07-511	That the Spruce Road Drainage be deferred to the 2013 budget and that administration proceed with the planning stage in time for the 2013 budget deliberations.	Grant John Joulia	GENIVAR engaged to provide an "A" Estimate
12-07-514	That the request for the La Crete Recreation Society be deferred to the 2013 budget deliberations. (Blumenort tennis courts)	Alison	2013 Budget
<b>August 22, 2012 Council Meeting</b>			
12-08-550	That administration continue to work with Alberta Transportation to secure a long term lease in the Meander area. (gravel)	Bill	Under review
12-08-574	That administration advise the Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency of the County's interest in their subdivision services as a stand-alone service and requests clarification of fees as discussed.	Joulia Byron	RFD to Council 28-Nov-12
<b>September 11, 2012 Council Meeting</b>			
12-09-582	That Mackenzie County allows implementation of volunteer User Steering Committees with a minimum of 5 members in lieu of Co-op's and that administration draft a Terms of Reference for approval by Council.	John Bill Joulia	Public Works Committee
12-09-585	That the County continue lobbying for provincial funding for roads and drainage to new lands.	Joulia	
12-09-588	That Council approves administration negotiating a short term lease of the Fort Vermilion Research Station and present it to Council for approval.	Bill Grant	In progress Meeting has been requested with the Minister.
<b>September 24, 2012 Council Meeting</b>			
12-09-621	That administration proceeds with the development of the Rural Road Policy by following the process outlined in the Mackenzie County Policy Paper – Rural Road Development and that the Agriculture Service Board and Agriculture Land Use Planning Committee be involved in the development of this policy as well as the drainage policy.	Joulia	Next meeting scheduled for 19-Nov-12 with draft policy going to Council on 28-Nov-12
<b>October 30, 2012 Council Meeting</b>			
12-10-728	That Policy PW004 Winter Road Maintenance/Snow Plow Flag policy be referred to administration and the Public Works Committee for	Joulia Bill John	Public Works Committee

Motion	Action Required	Action By	Status
	review.		
12-10-731	That Council continues lobbying to have the Zama Access and Highway 88 Connector roads designated as primary highways and immediate upgrading.	Joulia Bill	
12-10-732	That Council meets with Genivar to review the draft Resource Road applications, discuss options, and strategies during the AAMD&C Convention in November.	Joulia Bill	
12-10-753	That the CAO send a letter to the Town of Rainbow Lake CAO in response to the October 16, 2012 letter as discussed, with a copy to both Councils.	Joulia	
12-10-755	That a letter be sent to the Town of High Level regarding its 2013 capital project request accepting the list of the 2013 projects as qualifying projects for cost sharing under the Regional Service Sharing Agreement, and requesting that the final list of the 2013 projects be provided based on the Town's final, balanced and ratified 2013 operating and capital budgets.	Joulia	
12-10-759	That the RCMP be notified regarding the County's intent to reduce the two enhanced policing positions for La Crete and area to one position and negotiate the renewal of the agreement for the remaining position for a three year term commencing July 1, 2013 and that the new agreement be reviewed and ratified by Council.	Joulia	

Motion	Action Required	Action By	Status
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Community Sustainability Plan – Action Items

Tasks	Responsibility	Approximate Deadline
Sustainable governance items:		
Citizen-engagement plan, formal avenues for active citizen involvement in strategic planning, long-term planning; undertake citizen satisfaction surveys;	CAO	
Local elections – collect, keep and report to Council voter data from municipal elections (comparative between elections);	Carol	
Review and/or establish Council Policy/Procedure on media communications, responding to citizens, contact with Government, etc.;	CAO, Carol	
Establish a Council Library in the Corporate Office (make a variety of municipal government related books and magazines available);	CAO, Carol	Completed
Service delivery items:		
Review standards for the services that are delivered and establish a formal process to review and evaluate compliance with those standards;	Management Team	
Infrastructure items:		
Review and recommend options regarding an infrastructure management system;	Management Team	
Review/develop a plan for maintaining municipal infrastructure;	Management Team	
Economic vitality items:		
Bring options regarding establishing an annual business licensing;	Joulia	
Risk management items:		
Review and report to Council regarding a municipal service continuity plan;	Management Team	
Review and report to Council regarding Occupational Health and Safety practices (inclusive of CORE certification status).	CAO	

Plato's Cave Publishing  
Move Up Magazine  
10506 101 St.  
Peace River, AB  
T8S 1L1

Mackenzie County  
4511-46 Ave.  
Box 640  
Fort Vermilion, AB  
T0H 1N0

October 25, 2012

Dear Reeve Neufeld, county council and staff,

I am writing today to make you aware of a homegrown project currently under development for the region that we hope you will find significant merit in, and to further gauge your interest in the project in the hopes of involving Mackenzie County and neighbouring municipalities in this new publication for the benefit of everyone involved.

Plato's Cave Publishing is a burgeoning publishing company, based in Peace River. Since 2011, we have published *theVAULT* magazine, a biweekly, alternative newsprint magazine exploring the culture of the Peace Country and our place in the world. In our first year, *theVAULT* has grown into a 30-plus page publication with more than 120 distribution points, encompassing communities from High Prairie to Manning to Spirit River.

We are currently in the first phases of production for the new publication called *Move Up Magazine*. It will be a minimum 80-page, high-quality, full-colour, glossy magazine in the style of an *Alberta Venture*, focusing on economic development, entrepreneurship and business in the Peace Country. We have set mid-March 2013 as our first publication date, with the second issue to follow in October 2013. We plan to print 12,000-15,000 copies to be distributed as stakeholders see fit, whether it be through the mail, or at tradeshow, conferences and workshops throughout the region and beyond.

Our hope, along with the municipalities and economic development agencies that have already come on board is not only to help retain the people and businesses that already exist in the region but to attract others from outside the region by showcasing the vibrant and diverse opportunities that are available here as well as promoting the potential for growth we share as a region.

We are hoping to make *Move Up* a very regionally inclusive publication that spans the entire Peace Country so we are offering discounted early advertising rates to hopefully entice municipalities and the economic development organizations they support to get in on the ground level. The counties of Northern Lights and Northern Sunrise are already on board along with Lac Cardinal Regional Economic Development and Smoky River Regional Economic Development. We are also approaching representatives from Clear Hills County, MD of Fairview, Town of Fairview, MD of Spirit River and Town of Peace River with letters similar to this one.

In addition to the widespread advertising you will receive, we are also working with early stakeholders to suggest content that will appear in the magazine. For instance, one of the main articles in the first issue is going to focus on local businesswoman, and we have asked our early advertisers to help select subjects from their specific areas to include in the feature.

Below is a rough breakdown of page count and general content:

- 48 pages of editorial content
  - 15 pages for features (2-3 per issue) each feature includes 2-3 pages of pictures
  - 15 pages for profiles (approx. 5 per issue); each profile includes a 1-page picture
  - 5 pages for cover, table of contents, masthead and editor's notes)
  - 5 pages of short statistics, news, and trends articles
  - 5 pages of infographics
  - 3 pages business columnists (2-3 per issue)
  
- 32 pages advertising
  - 17 pages for stakeholders at \$26,350 per issue or \$1,550 per page.

Together we believe we can create a positive, informative and compelling magazine that is also fun, relatable and youthful. We thank you for your time and consideration in this proposal, and we hope to hear from you soon.

Chris Zwick  
Project Manager/Editor  
Move Up Magazine  
(780) 624-1985 (office)  
(780) 274-0595 (cell)  
thepit@thevaultmag.com



Northwest Corridor Development Corporation  
P.O. Box 1414, Grande Prairie, AB Canada T8V 4Z2

August 31, 2012

Dear Northwest Corridor Development Member,

The coming year will be one of great interest to all supporters of northern corridor development. Expansion of a number of industries at the Prince Rupert Port and the Port of Kitimat, new development in Prince George and Grande Prairie, The Alberta Government's pursuit of a northern development strategy, and of course the potential development of pipelines along the corridor., are all exciting developments in the corridor.

The Northwest Corridor Development Corporation is of course a strong supporter of these developments. However, not everyone else is. Number one concern is of course the Northern Gateway Pipeline that would see Alberta's bitumen piped to the Port of Kitimat. The economic benefit of this will be great, not only to industry, not only to the governments, but also to communities in the Corridor, including aboriginal communities, which will benefit from employment opportunities, entrepreneurial developments and increased investment.

Opposition to the pipeline is strong, despite the fact that oil has been shipped off Canada's western coast for more than 50 years without incident. And pipelines crisscross western Canada with little or no opposition. Clearly there is need for greater education and understanding of the benefits versus the risk to ensure any developments will ensure environmental accountability and economic benefits.

Like pipeline development, this coming year will be a challenging one for NCDC as it moves forward to deliver on our mandate to promote and support northern corridors. We, like the pipelines, have much work to do.

I have attached with your Membership Invoice the 2012/2013 NCDC workplan. It is an aggressive one that includes greater presence in the communities in and along the corridor, increased industry involvement, greater presence at regional forums where we can promote corridor advancements, and increased action to engage government at all levels.



We have been fortunate to appoint Dan Dibbelt on as our Executive Director. Dan was most recently the Executive Director for the Northern Alberta Development Council, part of the Alberta Government. Additionally Dan brings experience in economic development, having worked with several urban and rural municipalities as well as experience in communications. We believe Dan can help us make the work plan a reality.

In the 14 years NCDC has been existence, we have maintained our membership structure. With declining government dollars our challenge in delivering services to our members has become increasingly challenging.

In July of 2012, the NCDC Board of Directors met and voted unanimously that the work of the NCDC is crucial to seeing northern corridor developments. That work carries a cost, however the Board of Directors believe the work will make a difference, to our members and to the north and communities within our boundaries. We hope you agree.

I, along with the rest of the Board and membership, look forward to working with you to advance our northern corridors. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 780-617-2381, or our Executive Director, Dan Dibbelt at 780-527-6232.

Sincerely,

*Carolyn Kolebaba*

Carolyn Kolebaba, Chair  
Northwest Corridor Development Corporation







## Northern Ports Symposium & NCDC AGM

October 10 - 12, 2012  
Prince Rupert, BC



ADVANCING TRADE THROUGH TRANSPORTATION

September 2012  
Page 1

# In the Corridor

### 2012 Northern Ports Symposium and NCDC Annual General Meeting

Book your calendar for NCDC's 2012 Annual General meeting being held **October 10—12, 2012 in Prince Rupert, British Columbia.**

This year NCDC is bringing its membership back to where it all began—Prince Rupert and Kitimat. The 2012 conference and AGM will let you hear from the industry that utilizes the port, the transport carriers that carry the products and the communities that are helping to make it happen.

Registration is now open on the web at [www.nwcorridor.com](http://www.nwcorridor.com). Links to hotels, airlines, tourism opportunities, helicopter tours, and key industries are also here for your convenience.

Visit our website to see updates on confirmed speakers. Day three of the agenda will include limited seats for a bus tour of Terrace and Kitimat. If you wish to take the tour plan to fly into Prince Rupert and book your return flight from Terrace, British Columbia.

### NCDC's New Office and Contact Information

The NCDC has moved to a new home! The new address for the NCDC is 10128 95 Avenue Grande Prairie, AB, T8V 0L4. Our mailing address remains Box 1414, Grande Prairie, Alberta, T8V 4Z2. Telephone is 780-527-6232. Email to [dandibbelt@nwcorridor.net](mailto:dandibbelt@nwcorridor.net).

### August Board of Director's Meeting

The NCDC Board of Director's met via teleconference on August 30th, 2012. The Board approved the conference and AGM agenda and the 2012/2014 Communication Strategy.

The Board of Directors also approved the 2012/2013 workplan which will see a strong presence for the NCDC across British Columbia and Alberta as well as a renewed push on meeting with key elected government officials to address northern corridors.

## The Year in Review

## The Chair's Report

The coming of fall closes off NCDC's 2011/2012 fiscal year—a year with much change and much progress. This year we met with provincial elected leaders and coordinated our 2012 Conference and AGM in conjunction with the Northern Alberta Development Council, which saw more than 450 attendees. We attended stakeholder meetings and completed valuable research on northern commodity transportation routes.

### Advocacy

This past year our board members met with several provincial ministers and Alberta's Premier, Alison Redford, to discuss the importance of the corridor. Our NWT member, Gord Van Tighem had the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and, among other things, discuss the work of the NCDC. We also met with various government officials including our past Prince George representative and now the BC ADM for BC Jobs, Tourism and Innovation, Tim McEwan.

### Information

This past year the NCDC Board of Directors met with various transportation groups, attended stakeholder meetings and gathered information through various conferences and symposiums. NCDC attended Westac Stakeholder meetings, The Chamber of Shipping Conference, the Economic Developers Association of Alberta Conference and AGM and the International Airships Conference and we held four management board meetings.

### Research and reports

Three major documents were completed by the NCDC in 2011/12. They include:

***Accessing the Corridor:*** Just completed, this report (available to members) identifies key

commodities shipped from northern Alberta and defines the routes they use to international markets. The report highlights transportation corridor deficiencies but also offers the opportunity to identify new economic opportunities for northern communities.



Carolyn Kolebaba, Chair Northwest Corridor Development Corpora-

### ***NCDC 2012—2014 Strategic Plan*** [\*\(available online\)\*](#)

The beginning of our year saw the NCDC Board of Directors meet in Vancouver to review our past successes and our future directions. The Board of Directors revisited the original purpose of the NCDC, 'to raise awareness of Canada's under-utilized northern transportation corridor' and realized that despite numerous successes, there was still much work to do.

The strategic plan supports the continued role of the NCDC include:

- provide a forum to bring awareness and explore solutions for the corridor,
- Pursue transportation solutions and opportunities with all levels of government and,
- Provide reliable information on the corridor.

### ***NCDC 2012—2014 Communication Plan***

The NCDC Strategic Plan highlighted the need to improve communication between the organization internally as well as with its members. Some key communication priorities included:

- Ensure timely communication to relevant groups,
- Effective communication between members of the corporation,
- Increased presence in our region ( Executive Director completed a spring tour traveling the entire corridor and meeting key stakeholders),
- Develop external communication tools.

### **New Executive Director Hired**

We are pleased to announce the hiring of an Executive Director, Dan Dibbelt. Dan's most recent post was as the Executive Director of the Northern Alberta Development Council, a department of Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education. Dan's background in government, public relations, economic development and communications will ensure that the goals and priorities of the NCDC are met.

Dan has begun the implementation of our communication strategy. We are introducing a quarterly newsletter for our members, improving functionality and relevance of our website, as well as news updates and greater presence within our members' regions.

### **Building for the future**

The past year was an exciting one for NCDC to build on to our past successes. NCDC was formed through the recommendation of a federal task force. Some 70+ issues were raised by the original report. Some of the key priorities that were highlighted included:

- raise the profile of the corridor (ongoing),
- Develop a corridor "capability" document (completed and available to members),

- Assist in enhancing rail, ocean and land-based tourism opportunities (ongoing),
- Improve east-west utilities services (ongoing)
- Remove remaining impediments for moving agricultural products through the corridor to the coast ( see *Accessing the Corridor*, available to members).

Combining the past strategies and information gathered from stakeholders, NCDC has developed their performance measures for the coming year and incorporated them in our new workplan.

### **NCDC 2012/2013 Workplan (available online)**

At our August Board meeting, the Board of Directors reviewed our workplan and targets. Highlights of the workplan include:

- Explore opportunity to facilitate a meeting of mayors and reeves along the corridor to address challenges and opportunities,
- Federal and provincial government meetings and advocacy,
- Grant proposals to facilitate expansion of research to include northern British Columbia in *Accessing the Corridor*, research,
- Increased presence at stakeholder meetings
- Information collection and dissemination to NCDC members,
- Improve website and usefulness to members to access information.

### **Welcome to our newest member—Port Alberta**

Port Alberta helps businesses move goods better by connecting people, promoting growth and advantages, share expertise, influence leaders and solve problems for their members. Port Alberta began developing the concept of enhanced logistics and a transportation hub and inland port in the greater Edmonton area. Initially developed from within the Edmonton International Airport, the concept quickly expanded to benefit the Capital Region.

Wendy joined Port Alberta in March of 2011. Wendy brings extensive previous experience building relationships and collaborating with private sector and government organizations. Prior to her appointment, Wendy spent a total of 16 years with Consulting Engineers of Alberta, the business voice of the consulting engineering industry in Alberta. For 12 of those years she served as the organization's CEO.



**Wendy Cooper, Port Alberta  
Executive Director**



ADVANCING TRADE THROUGH TRANSPORTATION

September 2012  
Page 4

# In the Corridor

## NCDC Membership

- [BC Maritime Employers Association](#)
- [Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia](#)
  - [City of Dawson Creek](#)
  - [City of Edmonton](#)
  - [City of Fort St. John](#)
  - [City of Grande Prairie](#)
  - [City of Prince George](#)
  - [City of Prince Rupert](#)
  - [City of Terrace](#)
  - [Clear Hills County](#)
- [Candian National Railway](#)
- [County of Grande Prairie](#)
- [County of Northern Lights](#)
  - [District of Kitimat](#)
  - [District of Mackenzie](#)
- [Initiatives Prince George](#)
- [International Longshore Union](#)
- [K. T. Industrial Development Society](#)
  - [Mackenzie County](#)
- [Municipal District of Peace No. 135](#)
  - [Municipal District of Big Lakes](#)
- [Northern Alberta Development Council](#)
- [Northern Sunrise County](#)
- [North Peace Regional Airport](#)
- [Northwest Regional Airport Authority](#)
- [Northwest Territories Association of Communities](#)
  - [Pacific Northern Gas Ltd.](#)
  - [Pacific Pilotage Authority](#)
- [Peace River Regional District](#)
  - [Prince George Airport](#)
- [Prince Rupert Port Authority](#)
  - [Ridley Terminals](#)  
Rio Tinto Alcan
- [Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine](#)
  - [Quickload CEF Inc.](#)
  - [Town of Grimshaw](#)
  - [Town of Rainbow Lake](#)
  - [Town of Smithers](#)
- [Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway Association](#)
- [Western Transportation Advisory Council \(WESTAC\)](#)

### NCDC 2012-2013 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Organization name with brief description, key contact name with bio and photo , phone, fax, address, email To be Printed September 30, 2012 Submit to : [dandibelt@nwcorridor.com](mailto:dandibelt@nwcorridor.com)



2012 – 2013 Workplan

Northwest Corridor Development Corporation

*An advocate for and promoter of international trade through Canada's northwest corridor*



## Northwest Corridor Development Corporation

### 2012/2013 Workplan

The Northwest Corridor Development Corporation (NCDC) has determined some key outcomes for the organization based on their 2011- 2014 strategic plan. Three key priorities were identified. They are:

- 1) Continued Support for the Development of Port of Prince Rupert
- 2) Enhance Awareness of Kitimat Port
- 3) Membership Retention and Recruitment

While focus remains strong on the development of the Ports, it is with the knowledge that communities and industry along the corridor will all benefit from port development. Any advancement in port development provides the potential for economic growth, not only in communities along the corridor, but also for those communities that feed into the corridor.

Seven key tasks were identified as priorities to achieve the goals of the Corridor. Below is a summary of those tasks followed by a breakdown of each task to identify the key activities, timelines, outcomes and costs.



	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>
<b>1</b>	Mayors and Reeves of the Corridor	Yearly assembly of key municipal leaders on corridor	Stakeholders in corridor	November 2012	<b>\$5,000</b>	Open communication between corridor leaders and sharing of transportation issues
<b>2</b>	NCDC – Conferences, workshops, symposiums and hearings		Staff and volunteers	ongoing	<b>\$18, 275</b>	Greater recognition of NCDC and increased membership
<b>3</b>	Stakeholder meetings	Regular NCDC Board and executive meetings and attendance at NCDC member meetings (WESTAC)	Executive Director	ongoing	<b>\$12,000</b>	Corporation and industry information sharing
<b>4</b>	Annual symposium		Staff and Board of Directors	October 10 – 12, 2012	<b>\$20,000</b>	Highlight NCDC past accomplishments, review work plan and provide insight in corridor developments to membership
<b>5</b>	Grant proposals and Research	Research and apply for grants for research and projects	Staff	ongoing	<b>\$20,000</b>	Raise capital to pursue projects of relevance to membership, industry and corridor communities
<b>6</b>	Federal and provincial government advocacy	Advocate to BC government for NCDC memberships and presence, as well as Ab. Transportation	Board of Directors and Executive Director	October 2012	<b>\$9,000</b>	Develop working relationship and support from the Government of British Columbia for Northwest Corridor developments



7	Information collection, analysis and dissemination Promotional material for trade shows	Subscription to publications, monitoring of key websites, promotional material	Staff	ongoing	\$10,000	Increase membership awareness of issues relevant to Northwest Corridor Developments
<b>Workplan Grande Total</b>					<b>\$94,275</b>	
8	Operational Costs & Administrative Costs	Exec. Dir., Board insurance, website, office space, supplies, printing, mailbox, blackberry, financial review, bank fees,				Executive Director will maintain a virtual office through the NCDC website and P.O. Box #.

Following is a more comprehensive description of the workplan.

**1. Mayors and Reeves of the Corridor:**

A number of communities along the primary corridor have identified specific issues and opportunities they face. While many communities expressed great benefit in being on the corridor, however, they also expressed some concerns, specifically increased traffic through their communities. Further they have identified the need to have a joint meeting with other elected officials along the Northwest Corridor, specifically the CN Rail corridor. NCDC will attempt to coordinate a meeting of the relevant communities in February of 2013. NCDC will provide coordination, administration and follow-up for the meeting and utilize gathered information to help direct its strategic plan. Additionally the meeting will allow the communities to establish a network to help identify resources for similar issues and opportunities.





Event	Location	Date	Outcome	Cost
Mayors and Reeves of the Corridor	Prince George, BC	February 2013	Establish opportunities and challenges of Corridor Communities. Identify research and advocacy issues and share with membership.	\$5,000 (Hosting costs)

**2. NCDC - Conferences, workshops, symposiums and hearings**

NCDC needs to increase its presence in and along the corridor to better understand the issues and increase membership to support corridor development as well as economic opportunities for member communities. Additionally NCDC interaction with industry will allow the Corporation to better advocate for its industry members.

Event	Location	Date	Activity	Cost
Energy Conference	Dawson Creek	Sept. 19 – 21, 2012	Bronze Sponsor Registration /Booth	\$1000 + HST \$450 +HST /\$650 + HST
Meet The North	Edmonton	Oct 3 – 5, 2012	Registration	\$525 + GST
Grow the North	Grande Prairie	February, 2013	Sponsor Booth /Speaker	\$2500 + GST
Minerals North	Terrace	April 24 – 26, 2013	Sponsor /Booth	\$3500 + HST \$450+ HST
NCLGA		May 2013	Booth /Registration Speaker	\$1000 + HST
EDABC		Spring 2013	Registration /Speaker	\$1000 + HST
Subtotal				\$11, 075 + GST/HST
Attendance costs				\$7200
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$18,275 + GST/HST</b>



### 3. Stakeholder meetings

A number of NCDC members are also involved with other transportation organizations. Attendance at these meetings will increase the visibility of NCDC and its mandate. Additionally attendance will offer networking opportunities to help in meeting the NCDC mandate. NCDC has also planned for three Board of Director's meetings in 2012/2013.

Organization	Location	Date	Activity	Cost
Westac Meetings	various	2 x year	Registration	\$3000
NADC	Edmonton	Fall/winter 2012	Speaker	\$1000
Port Alberta	Edmonton	Winter 2012/13	Information	\$1000
Yellowhead Transportation Meeting	Edmonton	Winter 2012/13	Information	\$1000
NCDC	Various	3 meetings	Management meetings	\$6000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$12,000</b>

### 4. Annual symposium

Due to staffing shortages and low revenues, NCDC has opted to partner with other organizations in the hosting of the Annual General Meeting and Conference. Great thanks go to the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) for working with us to carry on with our annual conference. In January 2012, we partnered with NADC to hold our AGM in Fort McMurray. At that the management board decided to begin hosting our own annual symposium in the fall of 2012. Due to our renewed efforts to support northern port development, Prince Rupert was chosen as the site of the conference. While we anticipate that through sponsorship and attendance fees, the conference will generate revenue, we have decided to budget for a loss. In the event there is a surplus, those funds will be earmarked for the 2013 conference.

<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$20,000</b>
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**5. Grant proposals**

NCDC has traditionally partnered with government to develop research relevant to the corridor to assist in the advocacy for corridor development. Additionally the research has been beneficial to member communities in identifying opportunities to access the corridor as well as identifying opportunities for value-added opportunities. Research completed to date has included *The Northwest Transportation and Trade Corridor Capacity Report* and most recently *Accessing the Corridor, Benefiting from Northwest Alberta's Proximity to Canada's Shortest Route to the Asia-Pacific*. In recent years the majority of research undertaken by NCDC has focused on Alberta. This was as a result of partnership funding from the Alberta Government. In 2012/2013 NCDC staff will research grant options to facilitate research that will tie in both provincial jurisdictions to benefit corridor development. Topics to be researched have not yet been identified, however developments with the Canadian Wheat Board are worth monitoring, as well as duplicating the 2012 study for British Columbia both have potential. Costs under this category are for leveraging purposes.

<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$20,000</b>
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**6. Federal and provincial government advocacy**

<b>Government</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Government of British Columbia	Victoria, British Columbia	November 2012	Meet with Ministers responsible for Transportation, Northern Development and Economic Development	\$3,000
Government of Alberta	Edmonton, Alberta	November 2012	Meet with Ministers responsible for Transportation, Northern Development, Infrastructure and Economic Development	\$2,000
Government of Canada	Ottawa, Ontario	December 2012	Meet with Ministers responsible for Transportation, Northern Development, Infrastructure and Economic Development	\$4,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$9,000</b>



**7. Information collection, analysis and dissemination**

The mandate of NCDC falls primarily in transportation and economic development. To that it is essential the Corporation keep abreast of what other organizations within those mandates are working on or involved in. This provides the opportunity for identifying allies on specific projects, as well as identifying potential opportunities or threats to the corridor.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Specifics</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Association Memberships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Westac</li> <li>• Port Alberta</li> <li>• Yellowhead Transportation</li> <li>• BC Chamber of Shipping</li> <li>• Economic Developers Association of BC</li> <li>• Economic Developers Association of AB</li> </ul>	Network with affiliate organizations, establish synergies with transportation organizations and disseminate information to garner support for northern corridors.	\$1,000
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British Columbia and Alberta newspapers, trade publications</li> </ul>	Monitor, analyze and report back to membership	\$1,000
Research Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pembina Institute</li> <li>• Conference Board of Canada</li> <li>• CCEDnet</li> </ul>	Monitor, analyze and report back to membership	\$500
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update</li> </ul>		\$2,500
Enewsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newsletter emailed to membership</li> </ul>	Membership updates	
Promotional material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display panels, promotional products</li> </ul>	Increased awareness, new members	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$10,000</b>

<b>Workplan - Grande Total</b>	<b>\$94,275</b>
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The NCDC 2012/2013 Workplan is an aggressive one. With the rapid developments happening both at the Port of Kitimat and Prince Rupert Port as well as industrial expansion happening in many of the corridors' communities, now is the time to advocate for the northwest corridor. By working strategically NCDC will be able to meet its mandate through implementation of this Workplan.

This Workplan is based on a budget of \$94,275 plus operational and administrative costs, substantially more than NCDC presently brings in from its membership. However, as is apparent from this Workplan, that if NCDC plans to advance the corridor and advocate for its development increased funds are necessary. If there is a shortfall in the budget the Board of Directors will re-evaluate the Workplan and edit it according to NCDC priorities.



**Mackenzie County Library Board (MCLB)**  
**August 22, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Fort Vermilion Library**  
**Fort Vermilion, Alberta**

**Present:** Lisa Wardley, Wally Schroeder, Beth Kappelar, John W. Driedger,  
La Dawn Dachuk, Susan McNeil, Lucille Labrecque, Lorraine Peters.

**Absent:** Daryl Zielsdorf.

**1.0 Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Beth Kappelar at 7:00 p.m.

**2.0 Approval of Agenda:**

**MOTION #2012-06-01** John Driedger moved the approval of the agenda as printed.

**CARRIED**

**3.0 Approval of the Minutes:**

**MOTION #2012-06-02** Susan McNeil moved the approval of the July 9/12 minutes as presented.

**CARRIED**

**4.0 Review of Action Items:**

- The action items of the previous MCLB meeting were reviewed.

**5.0 Financial:**

**5.1 Financial report as of July 31/2012:**

- Balance Forward \$ 34,653.82
- Total Revenues \$ 186,767.87
- Total Expenses \$ 100,081.57
- Ending Balance \$ 121,340.12

**MOTION #2012-06-03** Lisa Wardley/Wally Schroeder moved to accept the financial report as presented

**CARRIED**

**MOTION #2012-06-04** John Driedger/La Dawn Dachuk to approve the following 2<sup>nd</sup> and final transfer payments to the Mackenzie County Libraries:

Fort Vermilion Library	\$ 41,193.37	for a 2012 total of \$ 68,000.00
La Crete Library	\$ 57,850.00	for a 2012 total of \$ 89,000.00
Zama City Library	\$ 32,500.00	for a 2012 total of \$ 50,000.00

**CARRIED**

**5.2 Municipal Development Grant Application:**

- The Municipal Development Grant of \$ 54,511.00 was received Aug 8/12.

**5.3 Library Budgets:**

- Beth Kappelar will email the 3 County libraries to request that they submit their 2013 budgets to the MCLB by October 5,2012.

**6.0 Library Reports:**

**6.1 La Crete:**

- A 2013 library budget meeting was held on August 13,2012.

**6.2 Fort Vermilion:**

- The summer reading program went well.
- The website techsoup.org provides computer programs to libraries at a discount.
- The library furniture was moved to enhance its use.
- Discarded books for sale will be displayed on shelves.
- The \$ 100 gift certificate draw for completing the County library surveys was awarded.

**6.3 Zama:**

- Their library is still very smoky from the summer fires.
- The fire fighters from Mexico made good use of the library during their stay in Zama.
- They are encouraging a library society member to attend the Peace Library System conference held Sept 20 and 21, 2012 in Grande Prairie.

**6.4 High Level:**

- They submitted their completed County library needs assessment surveys.
- They have about 105 rural County library members.

**MOTION #2012-06-05** Lorraine Peters moved to accept the library reports as presented.

**CARRIED**

...2

**7.0 Old Business:**

**7.1 La Crete Library Building:**

- There is nothing new to report.

**7.2 MCLB Service Plan Results:**

- The MCLB will develop the County Library service plan on Oct 20/12
- County libraries will be asked to submit goals based on their survey results.

**7.3 Service Agreement with High Level Library:**

- Beth Kappelar and Lisa Wardley met with the High Level Library Board and renegotiated a new 3 year Partnership agreement which will be in effect from Jan1/13 to Dec 31/15.

**MOTION #2012-06-06** Lucille Labrecque moved to approve the negotiated partnership agreement as presented.

**CARRIED**

**8.0 New Business:**

**8.1 Policy Review;**

- The MCLB Will review their policies on Oct 20/12.

**9.0 Correspondence:**

- 9.1 2<sup>nd</sup> County Payment
- 9.2 GOA Public Library Directory
- 9.3 SOCAN Letter
- 9.4 A Conversation With Albertans ( Frank Oberle)
- 9.5 Alberta Culture Days Sept 28 to 30,2012.

**10.0 In Camera:**

**MOTION #2012-06-07** Lisa Wardley moved to go in camera at 8:10 p m

**CARRIED**

**MOTION #2012-06-08** La Dawn Dachuck moved to come out of in camera at 8:20 p m.

**CARRIED**

A personnel matter was discussed in camera.

**11.0 Next Meeting Date and Location:** Fort Vermilion Library, October 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

**12.0 Adjournment:**

**MOTION # 2012-05-06** John W. Driedger moved the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p. m.

**CARRIED**

**These minutes were adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2012**

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**Beth Kappelar, Chair**





October 23, 2012

Mackenzie County  
4511-46 Avenue  
PO Box 640  
Fort Vermilion, AB  
T0H 1N0

RE: Municipal Funding – 2013

We are pleased to provide you with a copy of our budget for the 2013 fiscal year, as approved at our October 10, 2012 board meeting. As municipal budgets are coming up very soon, we would like to thank you for your 2012 contribution and respectfully request the same funding for the 2013 year. In order to keep our funding and budget aligned with our fiscal year (January to December), MFTA will be mailing out 2013 Membership Invoices early in the new year.

Through the winter MFTA will be working on updating and reprinting our tourism map/brochure and increasing our brand presence and visibility via online marketing tools. Please explore our website ([www.mackenziefrontier.com](http://www.mackenziefrontier.com)) and Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/mackenziefrontier](http://www.facebook.com/mackenziefrontier)) and forward any comments or suggestions you may have.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the enclosed budget, please contact me by email at [chandra.tincombe@gmail.com](mailto:chandra.tincombe@gmail.com) or by phone at 780-841-3847; our mailing address is below.

Sincerely,

Chandra Tincombe  
Executive Assistant, MFTA





**Mackenzie Frontier Tourist Association  
Regular Board Meeting – July 2, 2012**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Beth Kappelar, *Chairperson*  
Teresa Griffith, *Secretary*  
Peter F. Braun  
Alan Forsyth  
Mark Morad

**STAFF:**

Chandra Tincombe, *Executive Assistant*

**REGRETS:**

Peter Ernst  
Eleanor Teichroeb

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Beth Kappelar called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

**2. Business Arising**

***Photo Archive***

MFTA needs to start a photo archive of the region including winter/summer, recreation, landscapes, wildlife, nature, events, and communities. Invite submissions from local residents, explore free advertising methods to get the word out.

***Fall Planning Session***

Put together a planning session this fall, before any more major projects or advertising happens. Create a business plan/marketing plan. Brochures were the big push to get out, now take the time to plan for the coming year. Internet marketing is very big now, it's easy to budget and relatively easy to implement. Google Analytics and Facebook ads would be a means to track visitors to the site and target ads to audiences. Creating a Facebook page for MFTA would be easy to do and is free; is also an avenue to hold contests and promote events. Look at getting a counter for the site? In the meantime we can update the website – links, photos, content, ect. Also look into developing a Facebook page for MFTA. Contact Don Wilson (Travel Alberta) about getting a list of industry events for the coming year, include in planning session – which ones to attend?

End of August circulate dates for a September meeting via [www.doodle.com](http://www.doodle.com) to the board.

***MFTA Website Update***

Trade links with partner municipalities and other DMO/tourist associations - we link to their websites and they link to ours. Grow a list of annual events; promote the list, link to other event pages from site. Include the mud bogs, rodeos, and other local annual events. Chandra to work with Beth and Teresa to get website updated and online presence established – links, Google Analytics, Facebook page.

**Post Office Box****Motion:**

Obtain a Post Office Box for Mackenzie Frontier Tourist Association.

*CARRIED*

**Moved by: Teresa Griffith**

**Business Cards**

Get some generic business cards made – contact information and website, no phone number only email address. Confirm/create *info@mackenziefrontier.com* email address. Chandra to design and send out proofs to the board for approval.

**Motion:**

Print 500 business cards with generic contact information through Print Perfect.

*CARRIED*

**Moved by: Teresa Griffith**

**Calgary Herald 8-page Section: Northern Alberta – Live, Work, Travel**

Contacted by Heather Owsiacki with Mediaplanet regarding participating in a special 8-page section to be published in the Calgary Herald on July 31<sup>st</sup>; section is about northern Alberta – living, working and tourism. Good opportunity to reach a large audience.

Would need a way to track/measure the success of the ad, look into QR codes – can be a good way to track an advertisement. Create and insert one into advertisement, can point to website/mobile site, contact information, or promote a contest or giveaway.

Discussed option of banner (which is more visible), over a 3 column (larger physical area, potential to get lost on the page). Recommendation to use minimal number of photos - single photo? – and not a lot of text, less is more. MFTA brand is warm and friendly, yet rugged and tough at the same time; keeping brand consistency important.

*Brainstorming regional attractions:* pro-rodeo association in La Crete, midnight sun, golf, buffalo salt licks, northern lights, fishing (Meander River, Hutch Lake, Bistcho Lake, Machesis Lake), wilderness, lots of open space...

*Photos to include in the advertisement:* **Golf\***, Hunt, **Fish\***, **ATV/Motocross\***, **Camping\***, Canoe, Kayak, **Wildlife\***

Contact Brian Gramson / Chris MacLeod for the Motocross Association and Watt Mountain Wanderers, find out if trails are open in summer and if visitors may use them.

**Motion:**

Place a three column advertisement in the *Northern Alberta – Live, Work, Travel* section to be published July 31, 2012

*CARRIED*

**Moved by: Alan Forsyth**

Chandra to create artwork and send proofs to the board for approval; deadline to submit artwork to Mediaplanet is July 17, 2012.

**3. Old Business****Financials**

Financial report was not available. Bank statements for the past three months were provided. MFTA is in good shape financially at present and has funds to operate and continue developing projects.

**Advertising in Our Canada Magazine**

Ad was supposed to have been published in a recent issue of Our Canada magazine, follow up with publishers.

**Invoice Municipalities**

Determine whether invoices are due to be sent to the partner municipalities. Amounts will be the same as last year.

**Tourism Season**

Tourist season is now here, speak to local hotels, museums, and VIC's – can they ask people how they heard about the region? The TOHL tourism group (Partners in Tourism) is to have a meeting in the next couple of weeks, Mark plans to attend and can update the board. Continue to work with the Deh Cho, and get more involved with Travel Alberta. Don Wilson is a good contact with Travel Alberta and Nicole Halverson (Mighty Peace Tourism) has offered assistance. Peter Braun and Lisa will be going to a meeting July 11<sup>th</sup> where the Tourism project RED1 is working on will be discussed.

**4. Round the Table Comments**

*Peter F. Braun* – Meeting minutes need to be emailed on a regular basis to Carol Gabriel (Mackenzie County), Town of High Level, and Town of Rainbow Lake.

*Mark Morad* – Good idea to look into search engine optimization (SEO) for website. Can we create member certificates for 2012 (with space for additional year stickers) that can be distributed to members?

**5. Adjournment & Next Meeting**

**Motion:**


That the meeting be adjourned at 7:52 PM.

*CARRIED*

**Moved by: Peter F. Braun**

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** *to be determined*

X

  
Beth Kappelar  
MFTA Chairperson