



# Progress Report

2018-2019

## Background

- December 2014, Peace River, AB:** Upon conclusion of the Closer to Home initiative (C2H), northern stakeholders anticipated that a water and wastewater forum would be valuable and resulted in the formation of the Coalition.
- April 2018, Fairview, AB:** The second 3 year strategic planning session was conducted. The renewal highlighted several priority areas and actions for the Coalition and confirmed that the previous work is still a priority for the members. The Training subcommittee was merged with the Recruitment and Retention subcommittee and the Public Education subcommittee was renamed Education and Awareness to better reflect it's purpose.
- January 2019, Lac La Biche, AB:** The organizational meeting was held, outlining leadership direction for the next two year period. The Terms of Reference were amended, completing the adoption of the documents for the next 3 year strategic term.

## Current state

Re-elected at the January 24, 2019 meeting in Lac La Biche, AB

2019-21 Executive:

**Chair,** Mr. Bob Marshall, County of Grande Prairie;

**Vice-Chair,** Vacant

**Membership:**

- Voting membership:** open to all northern municipalities, First Nations, and Metis Settlements within the NADC Boundary
- Non-Voting membership:** open to water/wastewater commissions, professionals, provincial/federal government, rural water co-ops, owners and operators

### Current Membership

Voting	31
Non-Voting	13

## Structure

The Coalition meets four times annually in **rotating locations across the north** to exchange information, hear from experts, discuss common challenges, and collaborate on solutions for water and wastewater management. The actions of the Coalition are advanced through its general membership and three subcommittees: **Advocacy, Education and Awareness, & Recruitment, Training, and Retention**, each of which have a work plan linked to the Coalition's three year Strategic Plan.

## Communications

The WNC communications committee was struck in 2017 and has since created a communications plan, aligning with the strategic plan term to:

- Manage how information is shared to educate members and partners on related topics.
- Grow the WNC network and increase stakeholder engagement.
- Manage a repository of resources for the membership.

## Subcommittees

This fiscal year, the Coalition produced 2 new reports, a Grants Brochure and Mutual Aid Documents, which can be found on the NADC website at: <http://www.nadc.ca/our-business/partnerships/water-north-coalition/>



## April – June

- April – The quarterly meeting was held in Fairview, AB, with 32 participants
- Members participated in a full day strategic planning session, hosted by Alberta Culture and Tourism
- Members voted to amalgamate the Training subcommittee with the Recruitment and Retention subcommittee
- Tanya Hunter from Alberta Environment and Parks spoke on the standardization of computer based exams for water operators
- WNC followed up with the Deputy Minister of Environment and Parks on the development of the online database for water and wastewater operator training records and expressed thanks for the development of the database and meeting the needs of the industry
- NADC worked to ensure updates to the WNC membership directory following the 2017 Municipal election

## July - September

- July – The City of Cold Lake hosted the meeting, with 35 participants
- Trevor Johnson with Sapphire Water spoke to members on biological filtration and reverse osmosis systems
- Peter Christou from Swirltex presented on a new technology to turn wastewater lagoons from a cost centre to a potential revenue generator
- WNC members met with the Minister of Health, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Health and Compliance, along with representatives from Alberta Environment and Parks and Alberta Health Services to discuss delayed response time related to bacteriological testing of water samples

## October-December

- November –Northern Sunrise County hosted the meeting in St. Isidore, with 31 participants
- Members adopted the new Strategic Plan, Communications Plan, and the Terms of Reference for the 2019-2021 term
- Advanced Trenchless Inc. gave members an overview of trenchless technology and its application for extending the life of municipal infrastructure
- The WNC exhibited at Water Week North in Grande Prairie
- The Advocacy subcommittee finalized a Grants Brochure outlining funding opportunities for water and wastewater professionals and organizations
- The Education and Awareness Subcommittee updated the previously published Resource Library document

## January -March

- January - members met in Lac La Biche, AB, with 36 participants
- Members participated in a tour of the local water treatment plant
- The Terms of Reference were amended to allow for a 2 year term for the WNC Chair and a 1 year term for the Vice-Chair
- Elections were held for Chair & Vice-Chair appointments for 1 and 2 year terms, respectively
- Elkan Environmental Engineering, along with the County of Grande Prairie presented on Bio-Electrochemical Anaerobic Sewage Treatment (BEAST) technology
- The Alberta Water Council shared updates on protecting sources of drinking water in Alberta
- The Recruitment, Training, and Retention subcommittee presented the finalized Mutual Aid/Contractor documents and updated the Training in the North document
- WNC exhibited at the Growing the North conference in Grande Prairie, the AWWOA Water Operator Seminar in Banff, the SARDA Tradeshow in Falher and the RMA Spring convention in Edmonton
- The NADC updated the WNC promotional video
- The Communications Committee grew by 1 member, now comprising of 5 members; Chair, Vice-Chair, 1 non-voting, and 2 voting members

**The Water North Coalition is supported with strategic and secretariat support from the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC). The Coalition is inclusive of the NADC region.**

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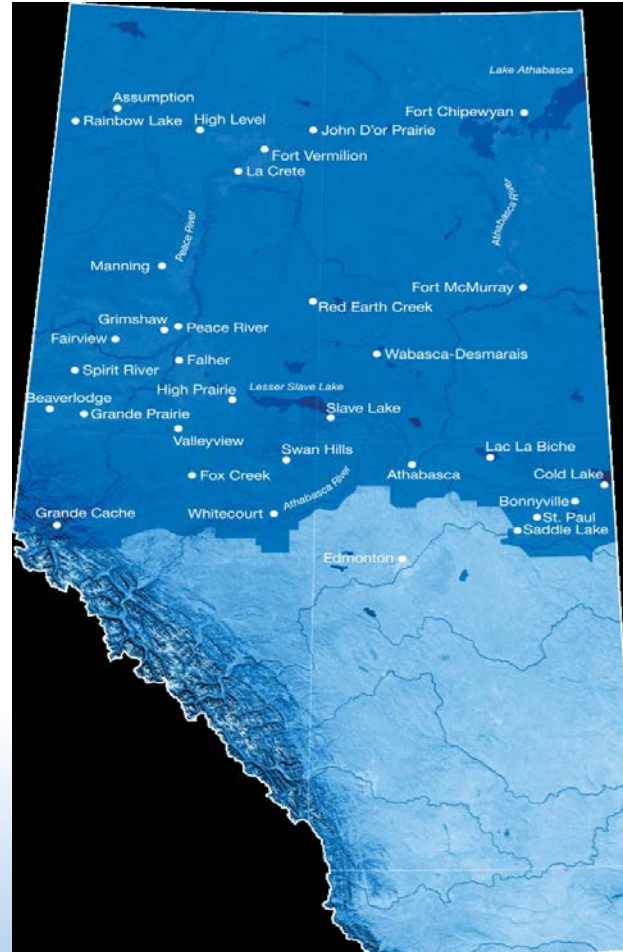
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 Northern Alberta Development Council

## The NADC Boundary Map



## Message from the Chair:

On behalf of the members of the Water North Coalition, I am pleased to share the progress report for the fiscal year of March, 2018-2019.

This year marks a new strategic term for the Coalition, and there are many accomplishments to celebrate. The WNC began the fiscal year with a strategic planning session, in Fairview, AB. We re-evaluated our priorities and established new goals for the next 3 year term.

The Coalition has gained a lot of momentum this past year with a revitalized work plan. I wish to thank the members for their continued engagement and diligence at the meetings and in the various subcommittees. This report clearly demonstrates the results of the work of the WNC to ensure safe and reliable water systems for the northern communities of Alberta

We continue to invite northern communities and water partners to join the Coalition in our efforts to take action on creating a sustainable water future for the northern region.

Sincerely,



Bob Marshall, WNC Chair  
Councillor for the County of Grande Prairie