

**DATE: Friday December 1<sup>st</sup>**

**TIME: 9:30AM – 3:30 PM**

In-Person: [MD of Spirit River, Brownlee Bldg.](#) -Map

Need Help: 780-527-6232(PREDA Cell)

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**9:30 AM Members Coffee & Networking / Administrative Technical Set-up**

**Theme: Health Care in Northwest Alberta**

**10:00AM** Call to Order/ Welcomes – Carolyn Kolebaba – Northern Sunrise County; PREDA Chair

Opening Comments: Provincial Announcement: On November 8, the Government of Alberta announced a plan to overcome current challenges such as wait times and health care service disruptions, and refocus the health care system to deliver the right care for Albertans at the right time. These changes will focus on the priority sectors of primary care, acute care, continuing care, and mental health and addiction. The Alberta government is asking residents to participate in a 10 minute [online survey](#) that will help the province “refocus” its public health-care system. Hand-out reference - extraction from [AHS 2022 Annual – Full Report](#) – shows how much we spend on Health Care; major surgical services; # of hospitals; beds by type; doctors, AHS staff, etc.

10:30AM Open Discussion: Recruitment Committees - County GP (Brian Peterson); Central Peace (Denise Joudrey), Northern Sunrise (Dan Boisvert), and MD Opportunity (Brendan Powell). This open dialogue forum, facilitated by municipal leaders will provide information on why they exist, their greatest demands, how they recruit/retain; and their relationship with Alberta Health Services. **Confirmed**

**11:00AM** Air & Ground Ambulance & Emergency Medical Services – 911 Triggered  
Rob Barone (General Manager, AHS-EMS); Katie Browne and Deb Wnuk (Clinical Operations Managers, STARS), and Brian Kroes (Central Peace Fire & Emergency) will provide overviews of the services provided, usage, challenges in providing services to communities in the northwest AND how these four service providers intercept. **Confirmed**

**11:30AM** *Community Health Profiles* are intended to highlight areas of need and provide relevant information of primary health services. The profile offers an overview of the current health status of residents in the LOCAL GEOGRAPHIC AREA, indicators of the area’s current and future health needs. PREDA has downloaded each full *Community Health Profile* (68pgs) for municipal members; available on the PREDA website. For this meeting, the handout extraction (5pgs) shows local geographic area highlights & services available for each municipal member. David Onyschuk and Mengzhe Wang; Analytics & Performance Reporting; Alberta Health are two of the lead authors of the *Community Health Profiles*. They will provide an overview and offer suggestions on how municipal leaders can use the information in their roles. **Confirmed**

**12:00PM LUNCH - PREDA Updates**

**PREDA Update 1:** Oats Of the 7500 bags more than 5000 have been distributed through our municipalities. Thank-you for the promotional pictures and feedback provided to the Prairie Oats Association. You are encouraged to take a few more boxes when you leave today to distribute during your Municipal related events, to local Family and Community Services Christmas Hampers, to local food banks, daycares; school lunches, and/or long-term care facilities.

**PREDA Update 2:** Municipal Project Fund approved the following submissions from partner municipalities: A) \$ 3,725.00 Town of Falher – Municipal Census 2024; B) \$ 5, 637.50 Birch Hills County – Website Revitalization ; C) \$ 27,000.00 Regional Partnership - Strategic Opportunities - MD Greenview (Larry Gibson, EDO, Northern Sunrise (Lynn Florence, EDO), Town of Fairview (Jenna Armstrong, EDO), County of Grande Prairie (Hetti Huls, EDO), Town of Grimshaw, Village of Berwyn, and MD of Peace (Misty Bagan, Regional EDO)

Thank-you to PREDA Board member Nick van Rootselaar, Community Futures Managers Holly Sorgen (Grande Prairie) and Randy Hodgkinson (Peace River) for their guidance to the MPF Committee.

**PREDA Update 3:** Community Airports Report - Global Airport Training Services will provide an update on PREDA commissioned overview report of PREDA community airports. The final report is expected on March 31, 2024.

**PREDA Update 4:** Tour of Site C Dam (Fort St. John) 25 members of PREDA / NTAB along with the Executive Director of the Mighty Peace Watershed participated. The dam is in the process of being completed and targeted to go on-line as of this spring. All electricity generated will be routed to southern BC. PREDA members expressed concerns with loss of water capacity and development opportunities downstream along the Peace River (i.e .. Northwest Alberta). Follow-up concerns of municipal leaders are being directed to Alberta Energy, Environment, and Economic Development. However, the multi-billion project, in development for more than a decade will go ahead regardless of concerns expressed.

**YOLO Nomads-** Yolo can help communities market themselves, specifically in response to the ever-growing trend of workers and families moving out of big cities. Luke Panek, Community Success Director, presents the services they can provide to develop strategy that focuses on identifying the ideal type of workers to attract based on your community's goals and resources through social media ads showcasing the allure of your community and its unique qualities.

**1:00PM NLC/NWP–** Health Career programs in the PREDA region are offered in Health Care Aide, Practical Nurse, Paramedic, and Register Nurse. Jasmine Light (Community Engagement) & Dr. Michelle Mitchell (Dean of Health, Human Services, & University Studies), Northern Lakes College AND T.B.A. (Northwestern Polytech) will provide an overview of enrollments & graduates, student & staff recruitment, practicums, university collaborations, challenges & opportunities. **Confirmed**

**1:30PM Diagnostics –** Critical to resident health & outcomes; diagnostic services in Alberta have been in turmoil in the last few years over the private contracted services *DynaLab* being transferred to the Alberta Gov managed Alberta Precision Laboratories (background posted on PREDA website). Within this flux; residents of the PREDA region also utilize the MRI & Ultrasound services offered through the private clinic Peace Regional MRI & Ultrasound in Dawson Creek. The clinic offers highly specialized MRI and Ultrasound examinations of all areas of the body and professional imaging services with no waiting lists. Blaine Curry - RTR RTMR, partner of the private clinic worked in MRI at St. Paul's Hospital, the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster, and Dawson Creek Hospital. The Peace Regional MRI & Ultrasound in Dawson Creek was opened in 2010. Blaine will provide an overview of the usage of the private clinic from Northwest Alberta residents, the cost of the services provided, and challenges when dealing with inter-provincial regulations. **Confirmed**

**2:00PM** The Maskwa Project is a proposed not-for-profit Medical Clinic with the goal of delivering timely diagnosis for **complex health cases** in the Peace Country. Conceived six years ago, the Maskwa project has been working tirelessly to achieve its goals on half of the residents of the Peace Country. The hand-out for this meeting is the original and intent statement, which since, the project has solidified its Board of Directors; and completed a cost benefit analysis for the proposed project. The concept of the Maskwa Project is modeled on the Mayo Clinic's collaborative teams of world-renowned experts. Ken Drysdale, founding member will provide an overview of this visionary diagnostic project for the Peace region. **Confirmed**

**2:30PM** **Wrap-up: Health Care in Northwest Alberta – Round Table / Next steps? Next Topic?**

**3:00 PM PREDA would like to welcome Jordan Tidey**, the new Director of Economic Development, Planning & Development for the County of Grande Prairie. As the site location "axis" of the Peace Region and PREDA's largest municipal member, Jordan's contributing role to the development of opportunities and regional partnerships will be instrumental to the overall success of our collective efforts. Jordan will present ideas he has for partnerships among PREDA and its membership. **Confirmed**

**3:30PM** Adjournment - Next Meeting March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

**Thank-you to our Meeting Sponsor**



**Thank-you to our Speakers!**



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