

Year in Review 2023-2024

Activity 1: Membership Symposiums

In 2023-2024 PREDA organized three membership symposiums. These symposiums represented collective regional issues with a variety of content experts accessed to provide information and insights. Coordination, printing, venue, catering, research, and speaker fees are covered under PREDA's general membership fees and available to all members to attend at no charge. The agendas for these three membership symposiums are attached. PREDA also hosts an AGM in June each year focusing primarily on administrative and operational reviews.

Activity 2: Municipal Project Fund

PREDA assisted the MPF with in-house form updates, submission calls for grants, committee meetings, confirmation letters and grant agreements – there three in 2023-2024. PREDA also provides financial services to the MPF. PREDA does not charge for these services to the MPF Committee.

Activity 3: Northern Transportation Advocacy Bureau



NTAB a membership based sub-committee of PREDA, which advocates for infrastructure, community development, and trade & utility corridors in Canada's Northwest and the Arctic region. Membership is by special request to the Committee. In 2023-2024 three sessions were organized on behalf of the members of NTAB. The agendas for these three membership sessions are attached.

Activity 4: Partnership Projects

- 1) Prairie Oats Promotion:** In partnership with the MD of Spirit River and the Prairie Oats Association 7500 2lb sample bags of oats were distributed into the PREDA region.
- 2) Fairview Campus:** Community engagement coordinated at the request of PREDA members. Included campus tours, NWP Senior Administration & Board of Governors, and Minister of Advanced Education participated in open dialogue, solution finding sessions throughout the month of July. These sessions were chaired by Carolyn Kolebaba - PREDA Chair.
- 3) Lightcast Mega-Datasets:** In partnership with the County of Grande Prairie, PREDA contributed to the regional cost of accessing subscription licenses for PREDA Economic Development Officers under the NRED grant. Currently PREDA has created a learning circle of ten members meeting monthly to learn from others, troubleshoot usage issues, and ultimately assess the value of this subscription to PREDA members. Learning circles are virtually hosted by the creators of the database; housed in Phoenix, AZ

Activity 4: Partnerships & Projects

- 4) **Certified Sites:** In partnership with the County of Grande Prairie, PREDA contributed to the costs of improving this in-house template created by County G.P. staff. PREDA members can access the template and receive assistance from County GP economic development staff in building their promotional pages for site-ready investments.
- 5) **Regional Airport Overview:** In response to the concerns identified through the town of Spirit River and NTAB regarding community airports and shut-down of critical medi-vac services, PREDA commissioned Global Airport Training to provide an overview of the current status of all community airports in the PREDA region. Currently the final report has been submitted to the PREDA Board and will be released to the PREDA membership in July, 2024.
- 6) **Site C Tour – FSJ:** In response to concerns raised during an NTAB meeting regarding the upcoming filling of the Site C dam in early spring; AND the potential negative impact on regional access to water from the Peace River, AND the realization that AB and BC have still not settled on a water agreement; AND that the electricity generated from Site C will be distributed to southern BC; PREDA organized a tour of the Site C Dam in Fort St. John in Oct. Twenty -nine delegates participated in the bus tour to FSJ; including the Executive Director of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance.
- 7) **YOLO - Digital Nomads** Following a presentation to the PREDA membership in March; PREDA has contracted YOLO to build a marketing banner through Facebook, etc .. promoting to specific labour market needs in the PREDA region. Currently PREDA has been assigned a content manager within YOLO and is providing content and links relative to our communities.
- 8) **Community Rail Advocacy** PREDA and NTAB have joined this group which advocates at a high level for national rail policies that address our local concerns with access to export markets; and cost of transport out of our region.
- 9) **Central Peace Childcare:** PREDA has been actively involved with this initiative spearheaded through Monty Kuhar, Economic Development Officer; MD of Spirit River. Currently the initiative has created a non-profit Board; is working closely with potential service delivery; location identification, and access federal / provincial grants.

Activity 5: Regional Networking

PREDA provided sponsorship & attendance to two economic development related conferences in the region: Community Futures Peace Country - Power Up; and the regional Growing the North. Throughout the year PREDA has also participated in numerous offerings from regional partners - examples are: ‘

- a) Community Futures Peace Country - Power Up (Attendance & Sponsorship)
- b) Growing the North (Attendance & Sponsorship)
- c) Various Small Business Sessions -Economic Development Officer, Hetti Huls,
- d) Various GP Chamber of Commerce – Mixers; Presentation to Chamber Board
- e) NWP - Social Mixer / Inauguration of new President
- f) Various Labour Market Information Sessions – Grande Prairie & High Prairie



Membership Meeting Agenda

PG 1 of 2

DATE: Friday September 1st, 2023

TIME: 10:00AM – 3:00 PM

In-Person: MD of Spirit River, Brownlee Bldg.

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

Video: <https://meet.goto.com/MaryJoanAylward> Tele: 1 (647) 497-9391 Access Code: 354-747-613

9:30 AM Coffee Networking / Admin Set-up

10:00AM Call to Order/ Welcomes – Nick vanRootselaar – MD Spirit River, PREDA Chair

Theme: Housing in the PREDA region. ([Video Link – 5M](#))

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is warning that 5.8 million living units need to be built by 2030 to balance the housing market. (Globe&Mail, Aug 2023). The CMHC is calling it a housing crisis. For example; 2 million of these new living units will need to be rental units (as per current statistics). This is a tall order considering in the **last 30 years Canada only added ~500K rental units** to its housing inventory. This membership meeting asks – “Is this housing crisis occurring in the PREDA region?”

10:00AM PREDA Overview: Housing Characteristics / Housing Starts – By Municipality

10:15AM Government of Canada: Under [the National Housing Strategy](#), the main fundings are:

a) Rental Construction Financing Initiative (RCFI), b) National Housing Co-Investment Fund (NHCI), c) Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI), d) Affordable Housing Innovation Fund (AHIF) and e) the Federal Lands Initiative (FDI). Melissa Soparlo (Specialist, Outreach & Project Development) of the CMHC will provide an overview of these funding streams. (Alternative Offered)

10:45AM Government of Alberta: The [Housing Affordability Partnership](#)- \$55M in funding will be distributed across three years, to build affordable housing for seniors, families, individuals with low incomes, developmental disabilities, physical challenges, victims of violence, and others. Robert Craig (Director, Capital Planning) will provide an overview of this funding stream. (Confirmed)

11:15AM Industry Panel: Local Businesses Building Local Homes

Breton Plumbing & Heating: Originating from Cape Breton Island, Josh Campbell started his two person company (him & his wife) in Gordondale, AB in 2020. Josh’s skills are in high demand across the PREDA area; so much so that he is currently recruiting an apprentice. (Confirmed)

Clear Cut Electrical is located in Spirit River, AB; Ed Nellis, recently retired from CCE, is a Master Electrician with 41 years experience. Ed will speak to the demands for residential electrician services and the process of certifying these services. (Confirmed)

Environment Builders has developed into a leading Design/Builder in the Grande Prairie area. EB provides architectural, structural, mechanical & electrical design, engineering, general contracting and project management. Clay Dwernychuk, Project Manager for EB, speaks to hiring the variety of skilled trades required to build a home. (Confirmed)

Jandel Homes has been one of Western Canada’s largest manufactured and modular home retailers for over 45 years. Mark Huchulak, CEO & Owner of JH, has decades of experience, is passionate about the modular construction industry, and ultimately hands the keys to new homeowners. (Confirmed)



12:00PM Lunch Provided

Thank-you to the MD of Spirit River!

They are here! **7500 2lb sample bags of oats on behalf of the Prairie Oats Association!** The pallet loads are behind you in the kitchen area. You are encouraged to take these samples and distribute them to your residents at your local community events, rate payers meetings, etc .. Also, don't forget to grab your **PREDA product stickers**.

Municipal Project Fund – Daryl Greenhill (CAO) will provide an update to the membership on their economic development project *Event Attraction Strategy*. (Confirmed)

Trades in Residential Construction [Where Have all the Carpenters Gone?](#) (Video 10M)

1:00PM Home Builders Association: Since 1943, the (C)HBA has been "the voice of Canada's residential construction industry." Representing one of the largest industry sectors in Canada, with 8,500+ members. Scott Fash, Executive Director of the Alberta Chapter of this very extensive group of national peers will discuss the variety of [skilled trades involved in building homes](#). (Confirmed)

1:15PM Canadian Apprentice Forum: CAF is a non-profit organization that connects Canada's apprenticeship community. Participants work collaboratively to support vibrant and innovative apprenticeship systems and policies with a view to developing a highly skilled, inclusive, and mobile skilled trades workforce. Stephanie Schrum (Program Manager) will provide an overview of the federal GOV funding stream, [Canada Apprentice Service](#) which provides recruitment grants to employers to hire new first-year apprentices in 39 Red Seal trades across Canada. (Confirmed)

1:30PM PREDA Region Postsecondary Skilled Trades Training Labour market shortages in the skilled trades is one the biggest obstacles to building homes. In the PREDA region we are fortunate to have two publicly funded post-secondary institutions that offer Alberta Apprentice approved training programs; and potential access to other programs currently not offered in the region.

Alberta Apprenticeship: Jasmine Light (Chair, Business Programs & Regional Stewardship) and Angela White (Dean of Trades) have prepared an overview of apprenticeship training in Alberta; and the current status of the skilled trade programs offered through Northern Lakes College in the PREDA region. Jasmine Light will present on behalf of Northern Lakes College. (Confirmed)

Dean of Skilled Trades, Chris Laue, will present an overview of the current status of trades offered through Northwestern Polytechnic in the PREDA region. (Confirmed)

2:00PM – 3:00PM Membership Round Table / Next Steps

Thank-you to our Speakers



DATE: Friday December 1st

TIME: 9:30AM – 3:30 PM

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

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

Video Connect: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/629467829>

Teleconference: 1 (647) 497-9391 Access Code: 629-467-829

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 1st, 2024

Thank-you to our Meeting Sponsor



Thank-you to our Speakers!



NORTHERN SUNRISE
COUNTY



CITY OF
OPPORTUNITY
be.Δ.α.ν



NORTHERN LAKES
COLLEGE

NORTHWESTERN
POLYTECHNIC



Yolo Nomads



MASKWA MEDICAL CENTER

Peace Regional
MRI & Ultrasound



Alberta



Membership Meeting Agenda

PG 1 of 2

DATE: Friday March 1st

TIME: 9:30AM – 3:30 PM

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

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

Video Connect: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/629467829>

Teleconference: 1 (647) 497-9391 Access Code: 629-467-829

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

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

PREDA Updates from the Board of Directors

June AGM/Conference

GOA - 3 years for REDA's to achieve operational self-sustainability (Attachment 1)

PREDA & County of Grande Prairie NRED Collaboration (Attachment 2)

Overview of PREDA Municipal Airports

Part 1: Attracting Young Families – Topics & Issues

10:30AM Block Chain, Bitcoin, Mining: Words that describe the new age of currency, especially among the younger generation; and some countries are diving full into the concept. Sandra Eastman, a self-taught bit-coin enthusiast asks the question; will this revolutionize the world? Sandra will provide an over-view of what she has learned in her personal quest to become more knowledgeable of this digital commerce movement. **Confirmed**

11:00AM YoloNomads: Promotes the advantages of small town living. Luke Panek, Community Success Director of Yolo presents an overview of how their services can help small towns and rural areas leverage their uniqueness to a growing demand from persons who make a living from their laptops; persons wanting a smaller, less expensive alternative to big city living, and / or persons who desire more connection with a local community and nature. Yolo is building a database of options and promoting communities to this target market. Today Luke showcases how our municipalities can promote themselves through YoloNomads. **Confirmed**

11:45 \$10 a Day Childcare: Mary Ellen Norton is the Owner/Operator of [Enlightened Beginnings](#) in Grimshaw. She and her husband Tyler (aka the construction & safety guru) have built up their childcare from the ground-up over a ten year span. Today *Enlightened Beginnings* provides childcare to 140 children from across the Peace River/Grimshaw/Fairview area and employs 20 Early Childhood Educators. Mary Ellen is also a member of the [Association of Childcare Entrepreneurs \(ACcE\)](#). Her viewpoint is *"the government is painting a beautiful picture of almost free childcare - \$10/ day is just about \$1/hour for most children. This (unrealistic picture) is having a detrimental effect on child care operators and the state of child care in Alberta, actually all of Canada"*. Why? Mary Ellen will present an overview of the \$10 a day childcare program, the position of the ACcE; and concrete examples of how her thriving small business will be negatively impacted. **Confirmed**

12:30PM Lunch

Provided by: George's Catering Phone 780-876-8077

Part 2 – Water**1:00PM Water Shortage Advisory (Attachment 3)**

Alberta's government is working closely with communities, to take strong action to prepare for drought. Currently there are 51 rivers on the "watch list" for water shortage advisories; 9 of them are in the Northwest region ([Alberta's River Basins Interactive Database](#)). Rhonda Gauthier, Executive Director for the [Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance](#), which was formed in 2011 under the GOA's Water for Life Strategy; will provide an overview of the current status of our region and the impact this will have on our communities. **Pending**

1:30PM Alberta Trans-Boundary Water Agreements (Attachment 4) PREDA municipalities have identified concerns about the lack of a [Trans-Boundary Water Agreement](#) with British Columbia. PREDA/NTAB coordinated a tour of the Site C Dam last fall and were again reminded that this hydro-electric mega project is one of three dams that BC has placed along the Peace River, which generates electricity for southern BC. PREDA has sent a request for a status update from the Alberta Government on the "on-going negotiations" with British Columbia; note that "on-going" has been for 35+ years! **Pending**

2:00PM WaterSmart Solutions The Alberta Government has hired the consultants "[WaterSmart Solutions](#)" to develop a provincial response to drought. The company consists of water management experts that help create water strategies and implementation plans. Steven Herman M.Eng. P.Eng. Director of Engineering will present an overview of what a water management plan includes, the resources (human & financial) needed, and a typical time frame to completion. **Confirmed**

2:30PM Round Table – HELP! I need a Water Shortage Plan The advisement from Minister Shulz does not allow the luxury of spending a year, holding community forums, hiring consultants, to help our municipalities create a water shortage plan that is integrated, strategic, and long-term. What does a CAO do when he/she has no time and no resources. We help each other through it. Does your municipality have a plan? Have you accessed your water basin capacity data, created schematics and maps? assessed your current and future user demands? Are you willing to share your work with other municipalities to help them respond to this advisement from the Minister?

3:30PM Next Meeting AGM/Conference – June TBA / Adjournment

Thank-you to our Meeting Sponsor**Thank-you to our Contributors!**

Related Attachments and Links are posted to the PREDA Virtual Office



Northern Transportation Advocacy Bureau

Date: Friday June 9, 2023

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

MD of Spirit River – Brownlee Building

Video Connect: <https://meet.goto.com/MaryJoanAylward>

Teleconference: 1 (647) 497-9391 Access Code: 354-747-613

HELP! 780-527-6232 (Joni Cell)

AGENDA

10:00 AM Administration

Call to Order: Chair, Carolyn Kolebaba- Northern Sunrise County

- A) Agenda – Additions?
- B) Notes – March 2023 (Att 1)
- C) NTAB YTD May 2023 (Att 2)

Part 2 - Discussion Topics

- 1) Rural Fixed Wing Update – Dan Dibbelt
- 2) Community Rail Advisory Update – Carolyn Kolebaba
- 3) Tabled to next meeting due to Provincial Election / Wildfires
Y2Y will be invited to present on activity / plans for Peace Region.
MLA Lowen will be invited to speak on impact of Y2Y on forestry industry.
- 4) University of Calgary Update [Canadian Northern Corridor](#)
Dr. G. Kent Fellows, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary - Invited
- 5) Update on NORAD and NATO activity in Arctic Circle.

(Att 3) NATO chief tours Arctic defences as Canada comes under pressure to guard the Far North (CBC Aug 2022)

(Att 4) NATO allies wake up to Russian supremacy in the Arctic (Reuters, Nov 2022)
- 6) Topics for Next Meeting?
- 7) Next Meeting / Adjournment

NTAB Membership

Big Lakes County
 Birch Hills County
 Clear Hills County
 County of Grande Prairie
 County of Northern Lights #22
 MD of Fairview #136
 MD of Greenview #16
 MD of Smoky River #130
 MD of Spirit River #133
 MD of Opportunity #17
 MD of Peace #135
 Northern Sunrise County
 Saddle Hills County
 Town of Sexsmith
 Town of Valleyview



Northern Transportation Advocacy Bureau

Date: Friday September 15, 2023

10:00 AM to 2:30 PM

MD of Spirit River – Brownlee Building

Video Connect: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/629467829>

Teleconference: 1 (647) 497-9391 Access Code: 629-467-829

HELP! 780-527-6232 (NTAB Cell)

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MD of Peace #135
Northern Sunrise County
Saddle Hills County
Town of Sexsmith
Town of Valleyview

AGENDA

10:00 AM Part 1 - Administration

Call to Order: Chair, Carolyn Kolebaba- Northern Sunrise County

- A) Agenda – Additions? Notes from Previous - June 2023 (Att 1)
- B) NTAB YTD August 2023 (Att 2)
- C) Village of Rycroft – Membership Request (Att 3)
- D) PREDA Research Project: Regional Airport Assessment

10:30 Part 2 - Discussion Topics

- 1) Air Ambulance: Jessica Stevenson (AHS) is Chair of the Landing Sites Committee. Jessica will provide an update on air ambulance winter operations in Northwest Alberta. **Confirmed**
- 2) Site C Dam – Bob Gammer, BCHydro Manager of Community Relations will provide an update. **Confirmed**
- 3) Northern Nations Cooperative / Generating for 7 Generations – Matt Vickers, CEO **Confirmed**
100% Indigenous Member owned, the Northern Nations Cooperative supports the goals of Canada's Indigenous leaders to achieve economic equity in Canada. Matt is a long-time advisor to NTAB; initially with rail development from FT Mac to Alaska; evolving into an emerging unity of First Nations on large scale economic development opportunities. Today, Matt provides an overview of two major developments in Manitoba – *The Arctic Gateway Group* and the *NeeStanan Utility Corridor Project*.

As of 2021; *Arctic Gateway Group* owns and operates the Port of Churchill, Canada's only Arctic seaport serviced by rail, running from The Pas to Churchill, Manitoba.

Neestanan Utility Corridor [New Export Port Proposed for Manitoba](#) (WebVideo 2M)

Robyn Lore, Project Manager, will provide an overview of the Neestanan Utility Project. **Confirmed**

[First Nations coalition seeking pipeline to move Alberta hydrogen to Churchill, MB](#) (WebPress)

- 4) Yellowstone 2 Yukon – The organization has received 300K from AB Gov under Community Grants. MLA Todd Lowen has been invited to speak on the impact of Y2Y on Alberta's industry development. **(Pending)** [Y2Y – Peace Region Priorities](#) (Weblink)
- 5) Railway Competition in Canada?
[Canada's two big railways are livid over Trudeau's attempt to force competition](#) (WebPress)
[Abolish Canada's Rail Monopoly](#) – Published 2008 the article could have been written yesterday. (WebPress)

2:30PM Next Meeting / Adjournment



Northern Transportation Advocacy Bureau

Date: Wednesday February 21, 2024

6:00PM to 9:00 PM

HELP! 780-527-6232 (NTAB Cell)

[Delta Hotel – Grande Prairie](#) (Map) 11700 99 Avenue

IN PERSON ONLY

Open Discussion Dinner
6:00PM Reception / Dinner at 7:00PM

Rail, road, airports, pipelines, and ports work in unison to get our commodities to market. NTAB is hosting a private dinner with invited guests who bring hands-on knowledge of the energy, minerals, agriculture, and forestry industries and the critical dependence these industries have on our transport infrastructure.

6:00PM Reception / Dinner at 7:00PM

Guest List: All NTAB Members – Municipal Designated Representative

Invitations Sent To:

MP Chris Warkentin - Grande Prairie - Mackenzie
Hon. Rick McIver – Minister of Municipal Affairs
Hillary Cleminson. – Chief of Staff Municipal Affairs
Hon. Todd Lowen – Minister of Forestry
Matt Vickers – G7G (Fort McMurray to Alaska Rail)
Julianne Threlfall & Karen Jensen & Josh Ellis – CN Rail
Mark Preston & Barry Caplan – NeoLithica (Lithium)
Natasha Westover - TC Energy / Coastal Gas
Will Stewart – Grande Prairie Airport
Brock Mulligan - Alberta Forest Products
Tyler Olsen - Industrial and Commercial Trucking
Andre Harpe - Grain Growers of Canada
Keven Moraes – Port of Prince Rupert
Merry Turtiak & Nicole Nelles – Regional and Northern Economic Development
Dr. Vanessa Sheane – President of Northwestern Polytech
Dr. Glenn Mitchel – President of Northern Lakes College
Mark Huchulak – Jandel Homes

This will be a “no presentations” event as the vast majority of our NTAB members and invited guests would have spent the day at the Grow the North Conference; instead it is a chance to unwind, enjoy a good meal, and participate in thought provoking conversations related to NTAB among our Members and invited guests.

NTAB Membership

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