



Year in Review 2025-2026
And
2026-2027 Projects Planned

June 30th, 2026

Governance

PREDA is a registered private non-profit under the Companies Act. The Board of Directors is elected by membership of the Alliance for a four-year term. As of March 31, 2026 PREDA 's Board of Directors are noted below. PREDA will be holding an election of the Board of Directors in its upcoming AGM June 2026.

Northern Sunrise County	MD of Spirit River	Town of Sexsmith	County of Grande Prairie
Birch Hills County	County of Northern Lights	MD of Peace	

Operations Overview

Operational Facilities: PREDA operates under a virtual office model utilizing its website as the portal for information distribution to its membership.

Human Resources: PREDA executive and administrative duties are carried out through 1 full-time equivalent (FTE) allowance of 35 hours per week under a fee for service agreement which is allocated across: 1) Executive for high-end economic consultations and government diplomacy, and 2) Administration. PREDA does not contribute to medical, life insurances, pensions, EI, or CPP.

Revenue Sources: In 2025-2026 PREDA realized two revenue sources: 1) membership fees which generate 135K; and 2) \$125K from Alberta Ministry of Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration.

Year in Review 2025-2026

Activity 1: Membership Symposiums

PREDA's membership symposiums focus on collective regional issues researched and complimented with a variety of content experts accessed to provide information and insights. Underpinning these quarterly symposiums is a fundamental purpose to highlight how the information impacts local municipalities and municipal leaders. In 2025-2026 PREDA organized 4 membership symposiums. Access to PREDA membership symposiums is included under PREDA's membership fee. PREDA also includes an open invitation to municipal member Economic Development Officers; Chambers of Commerce and GOA REDS at no charge. Agendas and related resources are posted to the website.

(Appendix A – Membership Symposium Agendas)

1) PREDA's June 2025 membership symposium focused on inter-provincial trade barriers. Dr. Ryan Manchua from the CD Howe Institute / Harvard University joined this meeting in person to present, discuss, and brainstorm with PREDA's members to advocate for public policy that enhance PREDA's economic development opportunities. Dr. Manchua is one of Canada's foremost interprovincial trade barrier experts, and author of the award winning "*Booze, Cigarettes, and Constitutional Dustups: Canada's Quest for Interprovincial Free Trade*"

2) PREDA's September 2025 membership symposium focused on Housing and the skills needed to build a robust housing development "workforce". AB Apprenticeship, Northern Lakes College Dean of Trades, the Professional Home Builders Institute (PHBI), and the Regional Manager of Careers Next Generation offered robust cross-discussions on potential synergies to support current and alternative approaches. The Wabasca Desmarais Housing Authority (WDHA) provided an overview of the administrative and legislative challenges while addressing the housing needs in their municipality. This meeting was strategically held in Red Earth Creek so all PREDA members could drive along Highway 686 and become familiar with the Northern Transportation Advocacy Bureau's priority for its completion. Highway 686, referred to as the "East-West Connector"; connects Fort McMurray to Peace River.

3) PREDA's December 2025 membership symposium focused on Nurse Practitioners and the newly approved services they could deliver directly to residents under the *AB Health Professional Act*. PREDA communities presented administrative and legislative challenges while addressing access to health care in their municipality utilizing Nurse Practitioners.

4) PREDA's March 2026 focused on a page-by-page review of PREDA's Housing report. Costs of development, supply chain barriers, mortgage renewals, and the impact of municipal by-laws were discussed. This meeting also provided an opportunity for PREDA members to highlight assets and infrastructure losses within their communities.

Activity 2: Municipal Project Fund

Recognizing the challenges small urban and rural municipalities have in initiating projects due to financial and human resource constraints, PREDA established the Municipal Project Fund to create the opportunity for its municipal members to access funds to support / activate local economic development projects within their local municipalities. Funds from the MPF can also be used as leverage towards government grants. Economic Developments Officers, (appointed by PREDA municipal members), Community Futures Grande Prairie, Community Futures Peace Country, and an appointed member of the PREDA Board of Directors form the MPF Committee. The MPF Committee has a Terms of Reference which guides their decision making in grant allocation. PREDA provides administrative & financial services (at no charge) to the MPF Committee.

Activity 3: Northern Transportation Advocacy Bureau

NTAB is a self-directed municipal advocacy / research initiative housed under PREDA as a sub-committee. NTAB focuses on higher-level national & global issues that impact local rail, roads, air, ports, pipelines infrastructure. NTAB consistently advocates for all levels of Government to work together to build northern trade & utility corridors in a cohesive and comprehensive manner.

. Activity 4: Recruitment Promotion



PREDA enhanced its promotional consumer internet link / email PDF download in partnership with YOLO Digital Nomads with the inclusion of an info-graphic map directly linking to each PREDA municipal website. This link is available to all PREDA members to embed in their social media resources, job advertisements, and/or community level marketing materials. PREDA partnered with Mighty Peace Tourism and the MoveUp Magazine which provided substantial use of their promotional and branding expertise. ([Link](#))

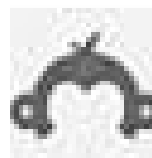


PREDA's website also provides direct links to the Move-UP Magazine and Mighty Peace Tourism.

Activity 5: Information Access and Subscriptions

PREDA provides its membership access to information and services frequently required for the development of economic development projects such as investor portfolios and business feasibility studies. PREDA's links to these datasets/subscriptions are regularly refreshed and accessible to all members. If requested PREDA can assist a member with data downloads and schematic interpretations. Links/ subscriptions available through PREDA's Virtual Office include:

- 1) Government of AB dashboards; traffic counts; community health profiles, education data. PREDA can assist a member with data analysis and formatting raw data
- 2) Statistics Canada - Community Profiles, Census of Agriculture, Population Census; Labour Market reports. PREDA can assist a member with data analysis and formatting raw data.
- 3) PREDA maintains subscriptions to *Report Linker*, *The World Diplomat*, and *Survey Monkey*. . PREDA members can access for free. PREDA can assist a member with technical, report downloads, text conversions, and content analysis.
- 4) PREDA also accesses pay-as-you go services from *Marine Traffic*, *Flight Radar*, and *Statista*



Research:

PREDA embarked upon two key research projects in 2025-2026 – Housing and Community Airports.

Housing Report:

Methodology: The report methodology consisted of a combination of third-party data collection; one-on-one interviews with members and regional stakeholders, a 25-question survey distributed to PREDA municipalities and local housing authorities. The distribution list included PREDA designated Council members, Chief Administrative Officers, and Economic Development Officers. Twenty-three responses were collected. The survey results, including the list of respondents can be found in Appendix B of the full report which is linked below. An inventory of the current housing availability across the PREDA region was used to generate a comparative matrix summarizing key findings for each PREDA municipality. The report also included a one-page summary sheet for each municipality.

Two full day in-person sessions were conducted with PREDA municipalities and regional stakeholders utilizing the dates pre-scheduled PREDA’s September 2025 and March 2026 membership symposiums.

The September session focused on the skills needed to build a robust housing development “workforce”. AB Apprenticeship, Northern Lakes College Dean of Trades, the Professional Home Builders Institute (PHBI), and the Regional Manager of Careers Next Generation offered robust cross-discussions on potential synergies to support current and alternative approaches. The Wabasca Desmarais Housing Authority (WDHA) provided an overview of the administrative and legislative challenges while addressing the housing needs in their municipality. Including the PREDA member municipalities, there were 35 persons in attendance. The March session provided PREDA members an opportunity to review (page-by-page) a draft of the report. Twenty PREDA members attended this session.

Highlights: The reality is that PREDA’s members focus their direct recruitment efforts on skilled professionals; as such housing offerings need to be aligned with these targeted recruitment efforts that typically want single-family home neighborhoods with back-yards OR on small residential acreages (2-5 acres). Current government level funding strategies are primarily targeted on low

income, affordability, and high-density type housing. As per above, these funding pools generally do not meet the needs of the municipalities across the PREDA region.

Also noted is that there is no unified, under one roof post-secondary focus that trains a team of individuals to collectively “build a home”. The report explored delivery models such as utilizing the business expertise of residential construction project managers who DO collectively bring all skills under one “outcome – to build a home”.

Small urbans and limited linear assessment rurals in the PREDA region do not have the financial or development capacity to attract residential home development contractors. PREDA investigated the merging of small urbans and rurals to create a larger “Request for Development” that would be more attractive to potential residential home construction companies. This would be a major undertaking as cross-Council special meetings would need to be created and managed at both the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Financial Officer levels.

Overall the report identified the primary housing issue in the PREDA is not availability but largely affordability. The accumulative costs of building supplies, labour, land preparation, and “green” legislation puts building home / renovating an older home more expensive than can be sold and/or purchased by young families.

The full report is available for download through PREDA’s Virtual Office. ([Link](#)).

1) Community Airports – Highlights

- A) This project investigated the creation of a regional shared service to assist municipalities in the maintenance and management of their community airports.
- B) Local current PREDA regional sharing models were investigated for best practices and familiar to local municipal leaders.
- C) In the PREDA region there are 11 “small community / municipal airports” which play a critical role in providing landing-strips for forest fire services, medical emergencies, recreational flyers, and industry charters. A common challenge identified through this over-view was the lack of content expertise in the PREDA region to maintain, service, and manage these critical “small community / municipal airports”.

- D) The report concluded a regional business could be feasible but the price-tag per partner is projected to be as high as 50K. PREDA municipal members are presently cautious to take on such a price-tag without provincial level commitment to support operational and maintenance costs currently absorbed by local communities.
- E) The full report is available for download through PREDA's Virtual Office ([Link](#))

Proposed Projects

2026 – 2027

PROJECT 1

\$45,000

The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Local Jobs

PROJECT 2

\$17,500

Sharing Resources and Avoiding Duplication

As per Grant Agreement #625273-20240305 with the Ministry of Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration PREDA is required to spend 50% of the \$125,000 grant received on projects (\$62.5K).

Project 1	The Impact of Artificial Intelligence On Local Jobs
Description	As artificial intelligence (AI) progresses in its capability, the implementation of AI across economic sectors is exploding. White collar jobs have been identified as the “prepare for impact” category of the labour market that will witness an implosion of AI within their jobs. Lawyers, accountants, researchers, counsellors, teachers , graphic designers, music producers, and government workers, are examples of white-collar jobs that are increasingly augmented into AI platforms. <u>AI’s Rapid Progress:</u> Fours years ago ChatGP caused concern across educational services for potential academic plagiarism. By 2026 ChatGP is an afterthought. Microsoft CoPilot is already outdated. Today AI programs like Claude & Vibe Code can “ build code” to automate job functions in less than a day. <u>Bringing it Closer to the Membership:</u> Will AI advance to a level that recording and scribing of meetings can automatically and in real time be cross-referenced with the Municipal Government Act; thus significantly changing the role of Chief Administrative Officers, Executive Clerks, and Legislative Services? Economic Development strategies can already be AI generated using community level information from statistics, labour market profiles, business registries, etc.. Where does that leave the local labour force in our communities. This research project will explore AI augmentation and predicted impact on the labour market across PREDA. And if engagement, retraining, and mitigation, can prepare the PREDA region for the impending changes.
Key deliverables and outcomes	Overview of PREDA labour force profile / potential local job losses Types of AI and upcoming augmentations across White Collar jobs What are the AI platforms; what can they do? How much do they cost to maintain/upgrade How are Chambers of Commerce impacted? Local small business leases? Samples of augmented AI generated products
Alignment with region priorities and REDA business plan	“To enhance the ability of the region to respond to economic opportunities”.
Proposed Budget: \$45,000	
Start: April 1st, 2026 End: March 31st, 2027	
Project Coordination / Research \$ 45,000 Sampling AI Platforms / Outcomes Stakeholder Input: municipalities, chambers, workforce consultants, post-secondary, etc .. Report – Draft / Review / Final Formatting	

Project 2	
Sharing Resources and Avoiding Duplication	
Description	The Oct 2025 municipal elections witnessed a sizable number of new councillors who are seeking clarification on the various economic development related membership organizations within the PREDA region. Organizations, like PREDA, are referred to as “external” within the language of municipal councils and hence are largely voluntary and membership based; with municipal memberships being very important to their overall operational costs. Also, if an external committee is on a Council’s publicly posted “List of Boards & Committees” with identified Councillor appointments; there is most likely a \$\$ stipend allocated to off-set attendance and travel costs. As Municipalities are increasingly taking on more and more responsibilities it is also a question of the value of their time to participate in external committees. In response, PREDA will be engaging with various regional organizations to compare mandates, costs, membership fees, and governance models to identify strengths, duplication, and potential synergies. Within the PREDA region there are also a number Government of Alberta (GOA) staff delivering services that contribute to the resources available relevant to economic development. For example, the Ministry of Jobs, Economy, Trade, and Immigration (JETI) provides full-time staff within the PREDA region such as a Regional Economic Development Specialist; 2 Workforce Development Consultants; and staff under the Northern Alberta Development Council. Input from GOA staff will also be incorporated into the research project. Note: Internal committees are typically mandated under some form of legislation e.g .. Municipal Planning Commissions, Agricultural Service Boards, Library Boards, Housing Foundations
Key deliverables and outcomes	Regional clarification of mandates, governance, membership targets etc. Identification of sharing potentials / duplication External Committees – Municipal Listings Less demand on municipal council time and money
Alignment with region priorities and REDA business plan	“To enhance the ability of the region to respond to economic opportunities and challenges.
Proposed Budget: \$17,500 Start: April 1st, 2026 End: March 31st, 2027	
Project Coordination / Research \$ 17,500 Stakeholder Input: municipalities, economic development related organizations. Report – Draft / Review / Final Formatting	

Appendix A - Attached Agendas

June 2025 (AGM) – Interprovincial Trade Barriers

September 2025 – Housing & Red Earth Creek (HWY 686)

December 2025 – Nurse Practitioners / Review of PREDA Community Airports

March 2026 – Review of PREDA Housing Report / Loss of Local Assets

June 2026 (AGM Package) – GP Airport Update & Tour / Regional Organizations