

# BACKGROUND

## Canada-Saskatchewan Northern Development Agreement

The Canada-Saskatchewan Northern Development Agreement (NDA) is providing \$20 million over five years (2002 to 2007) for a variety of northern economic development initiatives. More than \$13 million has been announced to date to support 38 projects. In addition to a broad range of training and employment programs, the Agreement has invested in the Northern Industrial Career Centre and an expansion of high-speed Internet service to more than 35 northern communities.

### Projects:

- **Saskatchewan Cooperative Fisheries Ltd. (SCFL)** will commission a detailed market assessment and related business plan that will determine whether a fish processing plant in Saskatchewan can operate on a commercially viable basis. SCFL has determined that it is essential to participate directly in value-added processing and marketing in order to advance the province's fishery. The co-operative has secured significant equity funding for a plant. The Province is providing the full \$254,559 for the plan.
- **Northlands College** in La Ronge will offer the equivalent of Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology's (SIAST) first-year Chemical Technology diploma program. About 10 students are expected to enrol. Students may be able to take work placements through summer employment with the Saskatchewan Research Council. After completing the first year, students can take the second year at SIAST in Saskatoon or enter the job market. Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) will provide \$170,981 and the Province will provide \$51,682 through the NDA. Remaining funding for the \$262,663 project will come through tuition fees.
- **Northern Apprenticeship Committee** will increase access to trades training in northern communities through a mobile training unit. The unit, which expands into a 1,100 square-foot facility, can accommodate a range of programs including welding, industrial mechanics and electrical training. The Province will contribute \$500,000 to the \$1,600,000 total project cost. Other funding partners include Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences, Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Training Commission, and AREVA, Cameco, and SaskTel.
- The **Athabasca Economic Development & Training Corp.** will repair and upgrade 12 critical areas between kilometre 184.9 to kilometre 102 on Highway 905 (the Athabasca Seasonal Road). Work will be done on numerous smaller road problems found during the moves between the 12 major repairs. The Province will provide 100 per cent of the funding, which totals \$1,013,000.
- The **Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council of Canada** will administer a program called "Transition to the Trades", which will promote awareness of apprenticeship careers and direct interested students to take the correct classes that will prepare them for trades. The program is aimed at enabling northwestern youth to take advantage of the plentiful employment opportunities arising from oilsands investment. The Province is providing 100 per cent of the funding, \$110,000.

- **Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) Program Services Inc.** will co-ordinate delivery of heavy equipment operator simulator training to prepare students for employment in this field. Students will be trained to operate a rock truck, excavator, wheel loader and tractor dozer. About 12 students are expected to enrol. The total cost of the project is \$135,446. WD is providing \$85,896 and the Government of Saskatchewan is providing \$46,000 in NDA funding. MLTC will contribute \$3,550 toward the pre-employment and work readiness training components.
- **Dumont Technical Institute Inc.** will provide a \$307,055 12-month, two-phase certificate level Continuing Care Assistant Training Program in La Loche. About 15 students are expected to enrol. The project will teach students to help people take care of themselves in their homes or in special care facilities. WD is providing \$119,528 and the Government of Saskatchewan is providing \$119,527 in NDA funding. Saskatchewan Skills Extension Program is providing \$10,000. Tuition worth \$48,000 will be provided through other sources.
- **Dumont Technical Institute Inc.** is also offering a 10-month certificate level Management Studies I Program in Île-à-la-Crosse for students from northwest Saskatchewan at a cost of \$270,936. Students will be able to apply for entry-level positions in management, and business management in the retail and service sectors. There will be an enrolment of 15 students. WD is providing \$208,936. Dumont Institute will contribute \$20,000 from its Saskatchewan Skills and Employment Program. Tuition worth \$42,000 will be provided through other sources.
- **Keewatin Yatthe Regional Health Authority** will co-ordinate a two-year, certificate-level physiotherapy assistant training program that will be delivered by Northlands College and Medicine Hat College. The program involves classroom training, distance learning, mentoring and a 50-day practicum at a hospital in the Northern Administration District. About 12 students are expected to enrol. WD and the Province will each provide \$124,202 through the NDA.
- **Northlands College** will deliver eight skills training programs to help northern residents acquire or develop skills in specific trades or non-trades areas of expertise. These include camp attendant, construction labourer, oil field safety, power engineering, pre-employment electrician, pre-employment welding, steam/pipe-fitter and heavy-duty mechanic. All programs except oil field safety will be taught in Buffalo Narrows. About 243 students are expected to enrol in the programs. WD and the Province will each provide \$775,000 through the NDA. Métis Employment and Training, Meadow Lake Tribal Council, Saskatchewan Learning and First Nations communities will provide the remaining funding for the \$2,050,000 project.

Administration of the federal-provincial Northern Development Agreement is unique in Canada. Northern organizations are invited to submit proposals that meet one or more of five strategic priorities of the NDA:

- Economic infrastructure: projects that support major new economic initiatives with significant benefit to Northerners;
- Innovation: projects that could lead to new discoveries, new products or new services in northern Saskatchewan;
- Realizing Employment Opportunities: initiatives that will help Northerners to take

- advantage of employment opportunities, with emphasis on the needs of northern youth;
- Capacity Building: support for organizations that will enhance the capacity of Northerners and their organizations to be self-sufficient; and,
- Investment Attraction: efforts taken to identify, research and promote specific investment opportunities in northern Saskatchewan, particularly value added industries.

Project proposals are accepted on an ongoing basis for funding consideration under the NDA.

The Northern Development Board Corporation and the Canada-Saskatchewan Northern Development Agreement were both established as implementation mechanisms in support of Saskatchewan's Northern Strategy. The Strategy includes common goals and objectives adopted by Northern Development Board members and the provincial government in support of social and economic development in northern Saskatchewan.

The Northern Development Board Corporation includes representation from the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities, representing northern municipal governments; the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan; the Prince Albert Grand Council and Meadow Lake Tribal Council, representing northern First Nations; and the Athabasca Economic Development and Training Corporation.