



Embracing Life Through Cultural Healing Youth Conference Got Real

Photo by Shelley

Upcoming

Waterworks, April 10 & 11, Coronet
 Administrators Conference, April 25th, Coronet
 New North Gathering, April 26, Coronet
 New North AGM, June 26th & 27th, Coronet

Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities

NEW NORTH

This month ..

- Budget Wrap
- New Infrastructure Program Accepting EOLs
- Empowering Our Communities Wrap
- Northern Landfills Announce Intention to Ignite Earlier This Year

Monthly Newsletter
March 2019

Govt. Casually Mentions Budget Balanced

Former Premier Brad Wall, reflecting as much upon fiscal management as lightly salted snacks, once said that budget deficits are like eating potato chips: it's hard to stop at one.

Three or four deficits later, the government has officially declined the invitation to zone-out in front of another episode of Gilmore Girls, hauled itself off the couch, tossed the remaining contents of the bag of Classic Lays into the high cupboard and vowed never to do this sort of thing again, unveiling a budget that, against all expectations—except possibly their own—will show a higher number on the revenue side than the spending side, if you don't count capital spending, and without increasing taxes, if we don't count last year or the other years.

They are also remaining upbeat about the chances of an even bigger budget surplus next year, although not as upbeat as they were last year.

A key feature of this year's budget is the \$30 million increase in mental health spending, taking their total spend in this area to more than \$417 million. The Health portion of the budget itself is up 2.15%. However, Education got barely any increase, and Social Services' budget grew by 3.7% due to more people accessing their services. Together, Health, Education and Social Services account for about 70% of all expenditures (and about 70% of that is salaries).

The \$34 million surplus is the first since oil and potash revenues fell off a cliff in 2014.

The government is basing the province's improved fiscal performance on an increase in revenues, mainly from taxation and non-renewable resource extraction. They're hoping for a 5% growth in revenues this year, and to keep spending growth to just 2%.

The NDP opposition questioned how a budget could be balanced when debt is rising. The government will be borrowing \$1.2 billion to finance their Saskatchewan Builds Canada Plan, and a further \$600 million in borrowing is related to the Crowns. Interest payments will rise from 5% to 6% of annual revenues over the near term.

In 2015 the province's budget deficit hit a staggering \$1.5 billion.

While fiscal conservatives might rejoice at the province's achievement, they will also be happy that the "new normal" has been achieved using the least progressive tax tool there is: consumption taxes.

Since the PST was raised and the base expanded, it now accounts for 15% of all revenues, up from 10% in 2015-16. Non-renewable resource revenue has gone from 17% to 12% in that same time. Education Property Taxes have increased by more than \$100 million since 2016.

Other interesting initiatives from the budget include a new \$3,000 tax credit for volunteer firefighters, and \$13 million to improve intersection safety. ■

See inside for more on the 2019 Budget.

NewNorth News & Updates

Mayor and Councillor Gathering to Cap-off Busy Event Season

New North Caves to Powerful Breakfast Lobby; Will Provide Breakfast at Events in 2019

The New North Gathering on April 26 at the Coronet will bring to a close this Spring's gaggle of gab-fests, following the New North Waterworks set for April 10 & 11 and the Northern Administrators Conference on April 25th.

The Spring Gathering will feature Laurent Mougeot's Roles and Responsibilities workshop (see below), and will also include a discussion panel on grow tunnels, a look at the draft proposed amendments to *The Northern Municipalities Act*, as well as time for open discussion and hopefully some updates on ongoing initiatives, including, of course, the wildfire mitigation funding situation.

The Northern Administrators conference takes place the day before the Gathering, and will be a forum for administrators to discuss the formation of the Northern Administrators Association, an initiative of the Northern Municipal Trust Account Management Board

(NMTA MB), which New North is currently providing a bottomless supply of cheesecake to.

The New North waterworks on April 10 and 11, which is already filling up faster than something that feels up really fast, will provide an opportunity for operators to obtain the 1.0 CEUs they need to maintain their certification. This year's agenda focuses mainly on wastewater lagoons for some reason, with workshops by ATAP and Enviroway. Registrations are still open—we never close—and can be found on the New North website.

And take note that the New North AGM is June 26 & 27, at the usual venue.

Breakfast will now be provided at all our events this year, and you know that's going to be great because the food always is at the Coronet. We can't promise an omelette chef—unless one of you wants to volunteer for that. ■

Upcoming ...

- April 10 & 11: New North Waterworks Conference (Coronet)
- April 25: Northern Administrators Conference (Coronet)
- April 26: New North Mayor and Councillor Gathering (Coronet)
- June 26 & 27: New North AGM (Coronet)

Breakfast

Pancakes, waffles, scrambled eggs, a selection of fruit, fresh coffee and a 30 minute timeshare presentation

“There is a Line in the Sand”

The Roles and Responsibilities of Municipal Officials Workshop with Laurent Mougeot

New North Spring Gathering, April 26, Coronet
9am to 12pm

This interactive session will offer an opportunity to clarify the roles of elected officials, their responsibilities and why they must not interfere with operational matters. The session will also offer a quick scan of the many acts and regulations which apply to local governments and will highlight the importance of due diligence and informed leadership based on the solid advice from your administration.

From the New North Chair

BY BRUCE FIDLER, MAYOR OF CREIGHTON

At the New North Executive meeting we just had there was a lot of discussion about initiatives for this year and a bit of reflection on what has been achieved in the year we've just had.

A conclusion we came to was that it is hard to make room for new initiatives given our capacity, and that we really should focus on successfully driving home the initiatives we have on our plate right now.

One of these—which we sincerely hope will have good news on soon—is the wildfire mitigation funding that Wildfire Management Branch with the Ministry of Environment is trying to secure, on our collective behalf, through the Disaster Mitigation Assistance Fund.

If funding comes through, New North, along with our partners, will be out front leading some of the project management work and helping communities get themselves organized to access the contracts for the work to be done. We are determined that this funding will help put our people to work and make our communities “Fire Smart” at the same time.

If the funding doesn't come through, you can be sure that we will be unrelenting in finding other avenues to get that money, because the communities have an appetite for this kind of work now.

A set of initiatives we've been trying to push forward involves helping communities build their

administrative capacity. Working alongside the Northern Municipal Trust Account Management Board we have been trying to build a solid case for a new and innovative range of programs, including one we are calling the Administrative Circuit Rider and Capacity Building Program. If you are familiar with ATAP's circuit rider program, you will know what we are talking about. It's like that, but aimed at helping our hardworking office staff with their municipal functions. One of these is meeting financial compliance, which is such a challenge in the north for reasons we are all aware of. The circuit rider's main role will be to provide training and general assistance, like mentoring and “onboarding” of new staff, but they could also help with grant writing, preparation of the books for audits, assessment role preparation, and so much else, where that capacity is lacking or a little bit of help is needed.

But we are also looking at some new things we'd like to push this year, too. I've just come from the Empowering Our Communities event where I heard loud and clear that communities across the province have an appetite for provincial or federal funding for Community Safety Officers (CSOs).

And, I am also determined that this year New North will join the work of many of my fellow leaders to drive and lobby for economic development initiatives in northern Saskatchewan. This year our mantra is jobs, jobs and jobs. It's an easy one to remember! ■

The Federal Government Had a Budget, Too

Maybe because it feels like every Liberal budget is an election budget, minus the election, this actual election budget seemed fairly lacklustre compared to some of the others. Still, some initiatives are worth mentioning, and they include:

- Support to preserve and promote Indigenous Languages
- Funding to help retrofit community buildings to be more energy efficient
- More funding for asset management capacity building
- An incentive program to help make electric vehicles more affordable
- A program to help first home buyers get in the market
- A commitment to invest billions into high speed Internet so that more rural and remote communities have access

to 50/mbps connections, up from the current speed targets of absolute garbage

- Something about carbon tax.

Gas Tax Top-Ups

Of major interest to municipalities is that the feds, for some reason, will be providing a one-year doubling of Gas Tax Fund distributions to municipalities who are, we assume, already participants in that program. As around half of the northern municipalities have dropped out of that program due to non-compliance, this is less good news than it could have been, but nothing to be sneezed at.

The province should have more information about how that distribution will occur in the near future. ■

Event Review

Communities Empowered

Empowering Our Communities: March 25-27, Prince Albert Coronet.

By Chelsea Laskowski **W**e all know that northerners are good at engaging in conversations on crime and policing issues that plague their communities. This month, they were asked “how do we get from engagement to empowerment?”

That came from facilitator Flo Frank at the Empowering Our Communities symposium on March 25-27. The point is: we hear many of the same problems over the years, and it's time to get at solutions so that in 10 years we aren't talking about the same problems. So Frank took on the daunting task of getting symposium attendees — who were a mix of police officers, First Nations leadership and CPB members, and some New North members — to come up with a single, concise answer to the complicated question of “what can we do, beyond enforcement and policing, to make our communities safer?”

All of the ideas were action-oriented, and they put a lot of onus on the communities themselves to take action (and for them to sustain it once they get started). Pinehouse suggested getting a Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) group in the community and Lac La Ronge suggested a youth program like Project Venture that has proven successful in the past.

By the end of day one, there was an impressive adherence to the “one idea per table” rule — and when it came policing they came up with ideas like creating an orientation packages on the history of a community to give to new RCMP officers and for officer training to have mandatory Indigenous studies courses.

A struggle became clear early on in the symposium during the first question and answer period. It revolves around whether the north needs more police, or whether it needs more prevention activities.

The message from the provincial representative at the table was clear.

“Adding more police officers is really not the solution to everything,” said Cory Lerat. He's the Executive Director Police Quality and Innovation, Ministry of Corrections and Policing, Ministry of Justice.

That's easy to say, but preventing crime is a tough sell when there are acute fears for safety in a community. This message came from Edmund Clark from Lac La Ronge.

The case for Community Safety Officers

Lerat made it clear early on that he's a huge advocate of community safety officers (CSOs). Quick primer: community



Photo by Chelsea
Ava Bear (Muskoday CCG), Richard Ananas (Beardy's and Okemasis CCG), Paul Sylvestre (Birch Narrows CCG), Caroline Lavallee (Timber Bay CPB) & Sharon Natomagan (Weyakwin CPB) all received long service recognition awards at this year's Empowering Our Communities.

safety officers are a uniformed presence that carries handcuffs and pepper spray (no gun) and attend “not in progress events” to assist police. After six weeks of training, they have the provincial blessing to issue tickets under a large number of acts, but they cannot attend events where weapons are involved or suspected to be in a home. Suspected domestic and sexual assaults require CSOs to contact police.

They are employed by a municipality, Rural Municipality or First Nation. This brings up the issue of funding. It is up to the community to fund their CSOs, and while Gavin Nash, the director of policing innovations in the Ministry of Corrections and Policing, said the ministry has been covering the \$6,220 cost of training, there is currently zero help beyond that from the provincial or federal government. Wages are about \$65,000 per year, plus about \$120,000 for equipment, including a vehicle, that needs to be replaced every three years.

Nash touted the benefits of having CSOs from personal experience back when he worked in Nunavut. The CSOs there helped him as soon as he landed in the community as a

fresh-faced officer from Vancouver, and over the years they were vital link for him as they invited him to do cultural activities with them.

“I wouldn’t have been successful in that community had they not been there,” Nash said.

Lerat said CSOs are a uniformed presence in a community who don’t rotate out in the way that RCMP members do. They’re a constant.

CSOs proved to be a passionate topic, where Clark suggested that members don’t sign new CTAs until there’s an agreement for them to get CSOs. He got a hearty applause from that idea.

Nash said people are working really hard behind the scenes with the province to get funding for CSOs, but he wasn’t able to give a timeline for when that might be possible. Already, he said, there’s a \$200,000 ask from PAGC on the table for CSO funding. On the federal side, Neil Hintz with Public Safety Canada painted a far grimmer picture.

The federal government had previously announced funding for 110 extra RCMP officers across Canada, and many northern communities requested officers. Angie Merasty from Pelican Narrows’ CCG asked if requests for more RCMP officers that were denied could be turned into requests for CSOs, and Hintz said a flat “no,” that there will be no considerations to amend that process. He presented no alternative federal avenues to seek CSO funding.

Angie Merasty from Pelican Narrows’ CCG told the crowd the crime reduction is visible in the community. Specifically, she said, when peacekeepers were away for their CSO training, there was a mild crime spike that dipped back down when they returned.

In short, the will is strong but the sources to fund CSOs is unclear.

“The community style policing I think is what we need more of. Also, the alternative measures type of policing, that sort of alternative measures justice. We need more of that. The CTAs that we have right now don’t seem to be working. I think a lot of people in the north want change,” Merasty told New North.

Simple actions, big effect

One of the most impactful messages of the week, according to attendees, came from a Canoe Lake family that started a protest against a known bootlegger in its community. Protest signs, saying things like “Children’s \$ is for food not booze” sent a strong message at the time, and resonated with Chasity Wahobin, from Waterhen Lake First Nation.

“These women went out there and they gained that knowledge and they stood up to what is right and that is what we need. You see a lot of women paving the way in their communities and that it what I would like to do too,” Wahobin told New North.

Success in justice is a mix of community-based actions and leadership, but it’s also about the community’s relationship

with the RCMP. On that front, Black /Stony Rapids Cst. Tayte Goddard spoke quite frankly about his experience as an small-town Alberta boy coming out of RCMP depot as a “greenhorn.” His first posting was at Loon Lake/Makwa Sahgaiehcan, and he said, coming from a controlled training environment, he wasn’t prepared for the job he had to do on reserve.

Beyond the work, Goddard talked about how lonely it can be to come to a community as a young, single guy knowing nobody. To fight that when he was working on Makwa, he threw himself into visiting the school and attending powwows. In return, he found an adopted family there and even received an eagle feather from the community.

“They send a lot of young single guys but finding that there was a family around you, was excellent,” he said.

In Black Lake though, he said the isolation has strained relationships with the community and police, and because RCMP can’t make it to all the calls they receive, people get a negative perspective of police. Goddard said he’d like to find a way to help the community understand the resource strain the RCMP is under, but it’s a challenge.

His presentation was a nice turning point in a conference where the background chatter frequently included complaints about officers and their investigations on reserve. Goddard’s presentation was a humanizing element. One attendee said he took his hat off to Goddard for his efforts.

That kind of relationship-building is key, said RCMP Assistant Commissioner Mark Fisher.

“You’re, at the end of the day, going to have a police officer, I think, that is more invested in the community, whether that is in their professional role as a police officer, or as a community member,” Fisher said.

On the final day, New North CEO Matt Heley walked attendees through the timeline of the CPPB. One important point there, is that the most recent CPB agreement was signed in 2009 and has a 20-year life.

The symposium ended with a highly engaged session where groups got together and filled sheets with answers to questions around community safety. Through that, it was clear that crystal meth is a continued issue in northern communities. Some of the questions included “who do you talk to about community safety concerns?” and “what is your community doing to orientate and provide cultural training to local RCMP members?” It was a fitting end to an event that sparked conversations around how communities can work as a team with their RCMP to make people feel safe in their homes. The limitations are clear, and a banding together of people is necessary if the effort is to be successful. ■

“Empowering our Communities” was an event co-organized by New North, the Ministry of Justice and the RCMP, and funded by the provincial government.

“Good News” Budget Slays Deficit, Predicts Further Slayings in Years to Come

You wouldn't think you could call the biggest spending budget ever an “austerity budget,” but that's the feel of it, as Health and Education got hardscrabble increases and there's very little else to get excited about as government prepares for the real spending budget next year.

An Aristotelian Budget

Government used the word “balance” 41 times in its 70 page budget document, and the word “surplus” 16 times—and at least 4 of those were an unrelated usage (as in, “we have a surplus of GTH swag”). The reason for the discrepancy should be fairly clear: the key message of this budget is not that they have more money than they are spending, but that in achieving “balance” the government is demonstrating a kind of moral virtue in restraint. For Aristotle, as you will all recall, extremes of deficiency and excess are both “vices” (his word). Having too much of something is as bad as having too little. This is an Aristotelian budget.

But there's another practical, reason, too: the more the government goes on about surpluses, the more everyone will clamour to have their program's funding restored to an appropriate level. And where's the moral virtue in that? Hence, the budget surpluses predicted for the next few years have been down-graded—without real explanation—from previous estimates of hundreds of millions to the much more modest, and therefore more virtuous, surpluses of \$49 million next year, \$72 million the year after and \$84 million the year after that.

That this is really an austerity budget by any other name is clear from the headline numbers: while revenue is expected to grow by about 5%, expenditure growth is just 2%—below inflation. In other words, this budget actually forecasts a per capita decrease in spending in real dollars, with Education and Health feeling the full force.

Education

School divisions have been watching every penny the last few years, and will continue to do so following this budget. Government is saying they have increased the Education spend, but that's just the equivalent of saying January was warmer than February: while technically true, you have to ask yourself how meaningful it is as a statement of fact. The 1.4% rise in Education spending doesn't carry the weight of being called an “increase” in any real sense. On the good news side, libraries were not just spared getting cut, they actually get a small increase.

Health

Government made an increase in mental health spending a major part of their budget messaging, and some of that—a tiny amount—will flow north. Overall Health spending will go up 2.1%. What makes the Health budget a little different with respect the north, and anywhere else, is that it is now a global expenditure. Before, you could say whether health services in your health region might have been getting a little extra funding to deal with local priorities, or a little less. Now, with a single authority, no one has a clue.

Municipalities

As we all know, a new revenue sharing deal—practically the same as the last one, with a couple of minor differences—was announced prior to budget. The MRS pool will be \$251 million this year, and \$269 million next year.

What was not widely known then, but is now, is that the northern share of the pool has gone down slightly, from 7.456% to 7.4%. The “rounding down” is so it is easier to remember, and calculate, how much the north gets (of course, 7.5 would have been just as easy to remember as 7.4). The difference made by eliminating those two other decimal numbers is about \$200,000 a year.

Therefore, while the MRS pool has gone up by about 4%, no northern community will see that kind of increase. A couple will see increases of 3% (lucky devils), but most will see increases of between 1 and 2%. The Northern Hamlets will notice very little change from last last year.

But next year ... next year is the year.

Cannabis

An interesting side note is that government is prepared to say how much they think cannabis taxes will bring in: about \$5 million this year (minus unspecified expenses related to implementation, bringing it down to less than \$4 million). If that seems way off expectations then it's because you're forgetting this is Saskatchewan.

Highways

The Highways budget is always heavily scrutinized by northerners, and this year's budget contains some already announced projects as well as one or two new things that made us sit up and take notice.

This year's total allocation to the north is \$57.3 million, and major projects include:

- Highway 135 south of Pelican Narrows,
- The previously announced Highway 155 north of Green Lake
- Highway 106 spot improvements east of junction with Highway 135

Although the spot improvements on 106 don't sound like anything to get too excited about, that particular project actually represents a departure in how capital-type improvements are going to get done.

The spot improvements on Highway 106 came about as a northern initiative when the three (3) Northern Area Transportation Planning Committees (ATPC) struck the Northern Transportation Infrastructure Task Force (NTITF) comprised of the three Northern ATPC Chairs: Bruce Fidler, Glen Strong, Barry Opekokew, along with Richard Porter, Chair of the ATPCCC and Chair of the North Central Transport Planning Committee, and Highways and Infrastructure Senior Planner, Alan Lindsay,

The group was tasked by the ATPCCC to develop innovative ways to enhance the transportation infrastructure in northern Saskatchewan. The NTITF looked at over 18 different investment/improvement strategies to improve the transportation network in northern Saskatchewan, and they eventually landed on the Spot Improvement Strategy, which looks at individual segments of road (no greater than 5km in length) that maintenance crews are struggling to hold together with their limited funding. The Strategy uses a surgical insertion of capital funding to improve the spot problems to create a consistent driving experience for the users of the network. A more predictable driving experience creates a safer traveling experience for the users, potentially decreasing travel times and increasing serviceability of the transportation network.

More details about highways improvements and upcoming projects will be shared at the New North Gathering on April 26 in Prince Albert. ■

Kids Take Centre Stage at Embracing Life Through Cultural Healing Youth Conference

Attended by more than 200 kids and adults from across the north, the Embracing Life Through Cultural Healing youth gathering was every bit as good as we'd hoped, and planned, as the Plaza 88 venue in Prince Albert rocked, swayed and occasionally swooned to the words and beats of a bewilderingly diverse group of presenters, including Supaman (pictured).

The conference was put together by a youth committee who selected the performers and presenters, organized logistics, designed the posters and sweated their way through almost 3 days of making sure everyone knew where they were supposed to be.

The kids loved everyone second, and we at New North are proud to have played our small part. Hats off to the many organizers and sponsors, including PAGC, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, the Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Government

Relations, Cameco, Orano and many others who will no doubt call to tell us we forgot to mention them. ■



Photo by Shelley

“Expression of Interest” Window is Open for Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program

It's quite possible—extremely likely, in fact—that when notices went out advising everyone to submit their “Expressions of Interest” to the new federal government capital funding program following the announcement by the Premier in mid-March that they could do that, most northern municipalities shrugged their metaphorical shoulders and continued clearing their not-so metaphorical driveways.

The reason is because it's been a long time since the northern municipalities have had unmediated access to these types of federal programs, and so no one takes much notice of them when they get announced. This is not to say that federal money has not gotten to the northern municipalities, as typically, the NMTA has made application to them on behalf of the northern municipalities. That's how the Northern Water and Sewer Program (NWS) has obtained its funding for way more than a decade. In fact, the north has done quite well, courtesy of the NMTA's NWS, out of federal capital funding programs.

This time it's different.

While there will still probably be a portion of the funding in this new program flowing through the NWS, northern municipalities will also be able to put in their own individual applications to any one of the four new funding streams that make up the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

The program has a two-step application process, and the first step is to submit as many Expressions of Interest as can be humanly conceived, for as many of the capital projects the municipality can reasonably afford to fund their share of, by April 30.

Mind you, it probably doesn't matter if you can't afford any of them, because Expressions of Interest are not actual applications to the program. Actual applications will be taken later in the year, possibly November.

By submitting an EOI you are not committing to anything. Rather, the point of the EOI stage is to give the province a bit more food for thought as to how to divide up the funding. Although these programs in the past tended to have a municipal focus, that's not the case this time. Virtually every entity with a business number and a working phone line can make application. The funding will be sought after by all ministries, agencies, governments of all kinds (including Métis governments and First Nations), and municipalities.

You can see why it is particularly important for municipalities to tell government just how significant their capital needs are by submitting EOIs in great numbers.

And why Government Relations is telling all the other ministries that this expression of interest is for a 2004 GMC Sierra. Actually, that's a pretty good truck except for the busted tailgate. So let's just say any Dodge.

Like we say, EOIs are due on April 30. While it doesn't seem like missing that deadline would stop anyone from submitting an application when the program opens for proper, it's a good idea to try to get something in during the EOI stage, just in case.

To find out more about how to submit an EOI, and to look over the guidelines, go to: www.saskatchewan.ca/ICIP. ■

From the CEO
MATT HELEY

If you've ever stood, tray in hand, in front of a recycling station in

a fancy fast-food place in Seattle assessing the molecular structure of each of the items of packaging that your chicken burrito came in, then you've come face to face with the future of refuse disposal.

The operative part of that little slice of social engineering, of course, is not so much the meta-cognitive aspect where we are forced to consciously think about the action we are performing, but the burning sensation on the back of your neck that tells you everyone in the restaurant is examining your every move critically and that any moment you could get publicly shamed for letting a napkin fall into the plastics hole which, I have on good authority, is grounds for deportation there.

How we think about how we get rid of our garbage is up there with how we might think about the Bay City Rollers: hardly at all, and with mild irritation.

It is called "waste" for a reason. Waste, by definition, is the thing we don't want anymore. If we wanted it, it wouldn't be waste. There's a video game my teenager used to play where, when your character expired—usually in a hail of gunfire (which seemed to happen fairly frequently)—the word "wasted" appeared "stamped" on the screen in the style you sometimes see on TV depictions of police reports. We all know "wasted" is gangster argot for "dead."

But just like your character in that game, the "dead" always returns. The waste we think we are getting rid of hangs around. If I wanted to visit the mattress I took to the dump 6 years ago I still could. That's comforting in a way, but not really.

Only smart folk who have figured out how to make money from waste don't look at it like waste. To them, it would be wasteful to waste waste. For a recycler, it's an "input," a bit of raw material. They take it and make it into a commodity. There are few more virtuous circles than that associated with recycling. Too bad we are mostly still horrible at it.

There's really nothing at all wrong with having to think carefully about things we'd like to not think about at all, and right now, northern leaders are having to think about waste a great deal. The design and planning of the new La Ronge regional landfill is nearing completion, and soon folks on the west side will have a chance to participate in a similar process. Moving to a regional landfill system in northern Saskatchewan is a challenge that can't be taken too lightly. Similar efforts have failed in the past, but the opportunities that northern leaders have right now to embrace a new way of providing solid waste services to the residents of their communities have seldom, if ever, been so ... opportune.

There will be those who will say that the timing is not right; that other capital projects should take precedence. This will always be true—the last place anyone wants to spend money is on dumps. But that's precisely the point: regional systems take the expense and bother of local landfills, and the waste in it, off your plate, more or less for good. ■

About New North ...

Since 1996 New North has been the voice of the municipalities of Northern Saskatchewan. Our goal, as defined by our mission statement, is to advocate, negotiate and initiate improvements in well-being of the residents of the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District. Organized on the basis of strength through unity, New North partners with all northern stakeholders, from government and non-government agencies, associations and First Nations, to enhance the quality of life, create opportunities and build better futures for the people of the north.

New North Executive

Mayor Bruce Fidler (Chair)
Mayor Robert St.Pierre (Deputy Chair)
Mayor Gord Stomp (Treasurer)
Mayor Mike Natomagan
Councillor Keith Laprise

New North Staff

Matt Heley
Chief Executive Officer
Phone: 306 425 5505
ceo.new.north@sasktel.net

Shelley Isbister
Executive Assistant
Phone: 306 425 5505
new.north@sasktel.net

New North SANC Services Inc

Phone: 306 425 5505
Fax: 306 425 5506
207 La Ronge Avenue
La Ronge, Sk

Monthly Newsletter Subscription Information

If you are receiving this it is probably because you are a subscriber or someone sent it to you. To subscribe or unsubscribe from the newsletter please email:

new.north@sasktel.net.