

**Northern Municipal Roundtable Meeting**  
**May 1, 2008, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Room 218, Legislative Building**

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- Called to order by Minister Hutchinson at 11:12 a.m.
- Opening prayer: delivered by Mayor Jolibois, Chairperson of New North
- Officials' introductions

**1. Introductions and Opening Remarks from**

- Minister Hutchinson (Municipal Affairs)
- Minister Draude (First Nations and Métis Relations)
- Mayor Jolibois
- Minister Heppner (Environment)
- *Other Ministers attended and spoke at various points throughout meeting. Please refer to the attached attendance list.*

**2. Municipal Sector Strategic Plan**

- The first topic for discussion was the Municipal Sector Strategic Plan (MSSP). Minister Hutchinson initiated discussion and turned it over to Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) Maryellen Carlson.
- ADM Carlson delivered a presentation (copies of the PowerPoint slides were handed out). Key discussion points were as follows:
  - The set up and process of the Northern Table as part of the MSSP.
  - Specific information was distributed about the Work Breakdown Structure for the development of a new revenue sharing deal.
  - New North asked for further clarification about the revenue sharing accountability item. It was clarified that revenue sharing money is unconditional and that the intent is not to say specifically how money is spent on particular projects.
  - There was some concern raised that achieving the work for a new revenue sharing deal will be difficult to do in the proposed time line.
  - It was noted that the first meeting of the Northern Table would be held soon (May 13 in La Ronge).
  - Progress made through the Northern Table of the MSSP will be reported on to the Northern Municipal Roundtable.
- Discussion then turned to the Building Canada Fund agreement signed between the province and the Government of Canada. Minister Hutchinson noted that negotiations were still ongoing with the federal government on specific programs. There is to be \$189 Million set aside in the communities component.
- New North raised concern that northern needs are for basic infrastructure such as essential water, sewer, and landfill costs to comply with provincial standards. The concern was raised that many councils will be unable to meet compliance timelines.

- The table was reminded of the recent needs assessment on northern water and sewer infrastructure which indicates that approximately \$50 - \$55 Million is required.
- Ministers Morgan (Justice and Attorney General) and Krawetz (Deputy Premier and Education) arrived. Both delivered brief remarks.
- With the arrival of Minister Krawetz, New North raised the issue of kids that have to leave local communities to attend high school. The associated social problems that often arise were mentioned.
- Minister Krawetz noted that service decisions are the responsibility of the Northern Lights Division.
- Minister Hickie (Corrections, Public Safety, and Policing) arrived.

### **3. Northern Youth Strategic Action Plan**

- Mayor Jolibois began discussion on this item. A presentation from New North was handed out. The key point was that New North is seeking long-term funding support to enable sustainable planning.
- Doug Moen, Deputy Minister of Justice, spoke to the initiative. It was proposed that a meeting be held in September between the relevant Deputy Ministers and New North. The question being raised by New North could be a key point of discussion at that meeting.
- Minister Stewart (Enterprise and Innovation) arrived.

## **LUNCH**

### **4. Presentation from New North**

- Mayor Jolibois began discussion on this item. A copy of the latest pamphlet and newsletter from New North was distributed.
- Discussion focussed on New North's organization, membership, staff, and priorities.
- New North's members have many diverse priorities, but focus is on building capacity. As a result, partnerships and relationships are critical to success (Northern Justice Symposium is an example.)
- New North made special note of the June leadership conference for northern leaders (First Nations, Métis, municipal, provincial, etc.) Ministers are encouraged to attend.

## **BREAK**

### **5. Northern Highways and Infrastructure**

- Minister Elhard (Highways and Infrastructure) and George Stamatinos, Assistant Deputy Minister, arrived to participate in this discussion.
- Minister Elhard began discussion with opening remarks on the importance of the north.
- Mayor Fidler spoke on behalf of New North on a variety of concerns relating to highways.
  - Single access communities are at risk every year

- Area Transportation Planning Committees have regional studies of road infrastructure needs. These need to inform decisions about prioritizing money and support
  - Northern municipal leaders should be involved in the decision-making process
  - Everyone acknowledges that the economic 'boom' is here or is coming, and northern leaders feel the list of proposed road projects for 2008-09 and 2009-10 does not include a lot of projects in the north.
- Minister Elhard spoke about the need to review and address construction and maintenance options. The province is creating a rolling five-year plan with transparent criteria for construction and maintenance decisions. He noted that the federal government has a role to play in economic development in the north as well.
  - New North mentioned that work has begun on the road to Wallaston. Is there a workplan and timeline for this?
  - The Minister responded that it will likely take five or six years to complete. Although it would be nice to be done more quickly, timing is extended because of the need for environmental permits.
  - There was some discussion about Public-Private Partnerships. The Minister indicated that the ministry is very interested in having discussions and determining what might be possible.
  - There was also discussion about the road to Fort McMurray. The consensus was that everyone needed to take opportunities to encourage the Government of Alberta to get the Alberta side of the road built. It appears that the primary focus in Alberta is the twinning of the highway between Edmonton and Fort McMurray.

## **6. Status of Northern Affairs**

- Minister Draude opened discussions on this topic. She noted that all ministries are listening and will be working with the north. She is planning on touring the north during early June, and is hoping that other Ministers may join her.
- New North asked about the future of Regional Development Corporations (RDCs).
- A/DM Crowe from First Nations and Métis Relations indicated that RDCs are important, that they are doing good work, and that the government is looking at what, if any, changes need to be made to them. Feedback from northern leaders was welcomed. Working together with Enterprise and Innovation, the hope is to enhance the work being done by RDCs.

## **7. 2009 Property Revaluation**

- Irwin Blank, of the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) delivered a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was distributed.
- Focus of presentation was on SAMA and on revaluation, and how the process works.
- SAMA was seeking feedback from New North on proper methods of communicating information about revaluation to northerners.
- New North mentioned that MBC (Missinipe) Aboriginal Radio would be a good option and that advertising could be done in Cree, Dene, and English.

- After the presentation, there was some discussion about whether or not there is a northerner on the SAMA board (there is not) and if there should be. SAMA indicated that it was something that could be considered.
- SAMA pointed out that several members of the board are appointed to represent the interests of the whole province.

#### **Concluding Remarks and adjournment.**

- As other business, DM Olsen, from Municipal Affairs, made mention of the fact that of the 25 municipalities that did not access their Gas Tax allocations, five of them were from the north. He asked if there was a sense, on the part of New North, for what could be done to avoid this in the future.
- No specific answer was given.
- Ministers Draude and Hutchinson, and Mayor Jolibois all provided brief closing remarks.
- The meeting was adjourned.

*Attendance list attached*

## **ATTENDANCE – INCLUDING LUNCH [59 in Total]**

- Minister Hutchinson, Municipal Affairs
- Minister Draude, First Nations and Métis Relations
- Minister Heppner, Environment
- Minister Morgan, Justice and Attorney-General
- Minister Hickie, Corrections, Public Safety, and Policing
- Minister Stewart, Enterprise and Innovation
- Deputy Premier Krawetz, Education
- Minister Elhard, Highways and Infrastructure
- Denis Allchurch, MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook
- Tim McMillan, MLA for Lloydminster
- Jeremy Harrison, MLA for Meadow Lake
- Fred Bradshaw, MLA for Carrot River Valley
- Jim Reiter, MLA for Rosetown-Elrose
- Laura Ross, MLA for Regina-Qu'Appelle Valley
- Greg Ottenbreit, MLA for Yorkton
- Serge LeClerc, MLA for Saskatoon Northwest
- Delbert Kirsch, MLA for Batoche
- Joceline Schriemer, MLA for Saskatoon-Sutherland
- Warren Michelson, MLA for Moose Jaw North
- Mayor Georgina Jolibois, Chairperson for New North
- Mayor Bruce Fidler, Vice-Chairperson for New North
- Mayor Gordon Stomp, Air Ronge (New North)
- Councillor Doris McDonald, Stony Rapids (New North)
- Mayor Alex Maurice, Beauval (New North)
- Joanne Griffiths, CEO New North
- DM Harley Olsen, Municipal Affairs
- A/DM Ron Crowe, First Nations and Métis Relations
- DM Doug Moen, Justice
- DM Liz Quarshie, Environment
- DM Terry Coleman, Corrections, Public Safety, and Policing
- ADM Maryellen Carlson, Municipal Affairs
- ADM George Stamatinos, Highways and Infrastructure
- Keith Comstock, Municipal Affairs
- John Edwards, Municipal Affairs
- Randy Braaten, Municipal Affairs
- Jeff Welke, Municipal Affairs
- Ralph Leibel, Municipal Affairs

## **ATTENDANCE – Continued**

- Kyle Toffan, Municipal Affairs
- Sheldon Green, Municipal Affairs
- Mark Cooper, Municipal Affairs
- Robert Kidd, Environment
- Edgar Gee, Environment
- Betty Ann Pottruff, Justice and Attorney General
- Maxine Hodgson, Justice and Attorney General
- Rhonda Hueser, Justice and Attorney General
- Nevin Danielson, Tourism, Parks, Culture, and Sport
- Miguel Morrisette, Tourism, Parks, Culture, and Sport
- Richard Turkheim, First Nations and Métis Relations
- Anita Jones, First Nations and Métis Relations
- Megan Lazeski, First Nations and Métis Relations
- Joe Kluger, Health
- Irwin Blank, Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency
- Shaun Cooney, Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency
- Larry Chaykowski, Saskatchewan Housing (Social Services)
- Bob Wihlidal, Social Services
- Harold Hugg, Highways and Infrastructure
- Dion McGrath, Enterprise and Innovation
- Terry Myers, Education
- Kevin Wilson, Health