

**New North Annual General Meeting  
Monday, November 23 & 24, 2009  
La Ronge Hotel & Suites, La Ronge, Saskatchewan**

New North held its Annual General Meeting in La Ronge November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The first day, Monday November 24<sup>th</sup>, was an information day for the Mayors and Council, which included presentations by Municipal Affairs, University of Saskatchewan, Cameco, Areva and SAMA (Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency). There were 56 attendees from 17 out of 35 communities. The second day was the Annual General Meeting, which included the New North Executive elections, resolutions for SUMA and New North and the financial report from Meyers Norris Penny. There were 49 attendees. Attendance list is attached.

**November 23, 2009**

Mayor Bobby Woods began the day with an opening prayer. Mayor Bruce Fidler, Vice Chairperson of New North followed with an update of New North's past and current events:

1. Waterworks Workshop was held April 27 – 29, 2009 in La Ronge. This year's event was once again very successful, where many water/sewer operators were able to obtain their CEU certification.
2. Two Mayor's Meetings, February 26 & 27, 2009 and the other was held August 21, 2009, both were held in Prince Albert
3. Currently organizing the Northern Roundtable, which will be held in Prince Albert, December 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Mayor Bruce Fidler introduced Randy Braaten from Municipal Affairs – northern branch, who gave an update on the work being done by ATAP/Associated Engineers, which included information for the northern communities about proposals that were sent out regarding capital assets. Braaten also informed the communities of the upcoming newly elected officials workshop which was to be held in three locations; November 25<sup>th</sup> in La Ronge hosted by municipal advisors Val Antoniuk, Marc Gaines and Bruce Lier, December 1<sup>st</sup> in Creighton hosted again by Val Antoniuk, Marc Gaines and Bruce Lier and December 3<sup>rd</sup> in Buffalo hosted by Bruce Lier.

After a brief break, Mayor Gord Stomp and Jim Bogard gave the Industry/Community Partnership status update. The Working Committee consists of Mayor Georgina Jolibois of La Loche, Mayor Gord Stomp of Air Ronge, Doug Gailey councillor of La Loche, New North CEO Joanne Griffith and Jim Bogard. Bogard began the discussion with a brief overview of how the committee was formed following the 2008 AGM where they discussed the impact benefit agreement with northern industry for all northern municipalities to create a fund to support northern municipal infrastructure. They collaborated with the Northern Municipal Trust Account Management Board. They also met with Cameco's Gary Mirasty and Areva's Richard Gladue and produced an outline of costs for funding needed to improve municipal infrastructure. More of the report can be found on New North's website ([www.newnorthsask.ca](http://www.newnorthsask.ca)).

New North's CEO Joanne Griffith and consultant Jim Bogard of La Ronge gave an update on New North's Municipality Consultations where they travelled to most of the 35 northern communities regarding the Municipal Infrastructure Needs Survey. Bogard noted that most if not all municipalities they visited, had many common issues and goals. More of the report can be found on New North's website ([www.newnorthsask.ca](http://www.newnorthsask.ca)).

During lunch, Cameco's Walter Smith gave a brief overview of the involvement Cameco has with New North and the Impact Benefit Agreement. Smith included information about Cameco having strong relationships with the northern communities where they engage them to prepare for education and training. Glen Lafleur of Areva provided information about Areva's operation at McLean Lake; over 300 are staffed with 45% northerners. He also asked the communities to invite him to talk about plans with Areva, look at partnerships and networking. Both Walter and Glen concluded their presentations with an open discussion.

Greg Poelzer from the University of Saskatchewan did a presentation on the International Centre for Northern Governance. Poelzer's presentation can be found on the New North Website ([www.newnorthsask.ca](http://www.newnorthsask.ca)).

Irwin Blank did a presentation on Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) on their role in the municipalities regarding assessments. Blank's presentation can be found on the New North website ([www.newnorthsask.ca](http://www.newnorthsask.ca)).

**November 24, 2009**

New North Vice Chairperson and Mayor Bruce Fidler began the day with welcoming remarks, Mayor Sandra Hansen followed with a prayer. Mayor Bruce Fidler then introduced CEO of New North, Joanne Griffith who gave a brief overview of the mission statement and explanation of New North's responsibilities with its 35 member communities. Mayor Bruce Fidler requested a chair for the AGM but since there were no volunteers New North Secretary/Treasurer Mayor Gordon Stomp agreed to chair the meeting.

AGM Chair Mayor Gordon Stomp called for any amendments to the agenda.

**MOTION 09-AGM-001** To adopt the agenda.

*Moved by Mayor Duane Favel (Ile a la Crosse) / Seconded by Mayor Fred McCallum (Green Lake)*

**Carried**

Chairperson Mayor Gordon Stomp announced that due to the flight schedule to Stony Rapids they would proceed with elections and began with the following nominations:

**Nominations for the West Sector as follows:**

- Mayor Cliff Coombs (Michel Village) nominated Mayor Bobby Woods (Buffalo Narrows). Mayor Bobby Woods accepted nomination.
- Mayor Fred Roy (Beauval) nominated Mayor Duane Favel (Ile a la Crosse). Mayor Duane Favel accepted nomination.

Councillor Clifford Laprise (La Loche) ceased West Sector nominations.

**Nominations for Far North Sector as follows:**

- Mayor Marius Montgrand (Turnor Lake) nominated Sandra Hansen (Stony Rapids). Mayor Sandra Hansen accepted nomination.

Mayor Duane Favel (Ile a la Crosse) ceased Far North Sector nominations.

**Nominations for East Sector as follows:**

- Mayor Carl Lentowicz (Denare Beach) nominated Mayor Bruce Fidler (Creighton). Mayor Bruce Fidler accepted nomination.
- Mayor Bobby Woods (Buffalo Narrows) nominated Carl Lentowicz (Denare Beach). Mayor Carl Lentowicz accepted nomination.

Councillor Harley Hudson (Buffalo Narrows) ceased East Sector nominations.

**Nominations for Central Sector as follows:**

- Mayor Bruce Fidler (Creighton) nominated Gord Stomp (Air Ronge). Mayor Gord Stomp accepted nomination.

- Mayor Bobby Woods (Buffalo Narrows) nominated Councillor Ida Ratt-Natomagan (Pinehouse Lake). Councillor Ida Ratt Natomagan declined nomination.

Councillor John Diagneault (Ile a la Crosse) ceased Central Sector Nominations.

Once the four sector nominations were completed, AGM Chairperson Mayor Gordon Stomp called for members to break into sectors and let all those nominated give a one-minute speech. An outline of the speeches were as follows:

Mayor Sandra Hansen

From Stony Rapids. First time being Mayor. On her journey and wants to continue to learn what New North is all about and the Athabasca Region.

Mayor Carl Lentowicz

He is supporting Mayor Bruce Fidler because he has been with New North for a while.

Mayor Bruce Fidler

He is the Mayor of Creighton. His third term as Mayor and has been on council three terms before that. He belongs to many committees. He sat as Vice Chairperson for New North. He is always trying to bring the best to northern Saskatchewan as a whole and not just as one community and he hopes to continue that.

Mayor Duane Favel

Believes New North needs a stronger voice and needs to work out relationships and communication with their own communities before trying to communicate with industry. He wants to give the CEO a clear direction so she can run with it. Believes that since there are 35 Mayor/communities they should have a clear plan on what they want to do and come together and run with it.

Mayor Bobby Woods

He knows many people, which is his main strength. He has been a chairperson in the past. He thinks they need to work together on communication. He will fight for what is right for northern communities and promises that he will stand up for anything and everything and with the communities support they can build a strong New North.

Mayor Gord Stomp

In the past 5 years that he has been on the board they made some headway and the best was with industry and communications. New North has made some progress but with the new ministries it can be very difficult to communicate. He believes that New North is as strong as its weakest community is and they have to work for everyone and not just one community.

AGM Chairperson Gord Stomp appointed Sunshyne Charles and Charlene Bosiak, both from New North to carry out the election, and called upon the membership for two volunteers to assist Charles and Bosiak: Municipal Advisor Marc Gaines and Administrator of Buffalo Narrows Therese Chartier. Procedure was that Sunshyne Charles would call out a community, which were broken down into each four sectors, and the voting member from a community would take a voting ballot and proceed to the voting station to vote anonymously and then place the ballot in the voting box.

AGM Chairperson Gord Stomp declared Mayor Sandra Hanson (Stony Rapids) director for the Far North Sector and Mayor Gord Stomp (Air Ronge) director for the Central Sector, both by acclamation. Mayor Bruce Fidler (Creighton) was declared director for the East Sector by unanimous votes. Mayor Duane Favel and Mayor Bobby Woods tied with five votes each. It was decided by the member communities to draw one name from a hat to declare the West Side Director. Both Mayors names were placed in a hat at the direction of Sunshyne Charles (New North) and Therese Chartier (Administrator, Buffalo Narrows). Mayor Bruce Fidler (Creighton) drew one name from the hat, that being Mayor Bobby Woods (Buffalo Narrows).

**MOTION 09-AGM-002** To destroy the voting ballots.

*Moved by Mayor Donald Laprise (Garson Lake) / Seconded by John Diagneault (Ile a la Crosse)*

**Carried**

**Nominations for Director at Large as follows:**

- Mayor Bruce Fidler (Creighton) nominated Mayor Carl Lentowicz (Denare Beach). Mayor Carl Lentowicz accepted nomination.
- Mayor Gordon Stomp (Air Ronge) nominates Councillor Harley Hudson (Buffalo Narrows). Councillor Harley Hudson declined nomination.
- Mayor Donald Laprise (Garson Lake) nominated Councillor Clifford Laprise (La Loche). Councillor Clifford Laprise accepted nomination.
- Councillor Harley Hudson (Buffalo Narrows) nominated Mayor Duane Favel (Ile a la Crosse). Mayor Duane Favel accepted nomination.

Mayor Bobby Woods (Buffalo Narrows) ceased Director at Large nominations.

Once the member at large nominations were completed, AGM Chairperson Mayor Gord Stomp called for the nominees to make a one-minute speech. An outline of the speeches were as follows:

Mayor Carl Lentowicz

He has worked mostly in the north, has been at Denare Beach for 21 years, and has been Denare Beach's Mayor for 5 years. Believes they need to represent all the communities, bring strength to the communities so that everyone is equal and generate the ability to help all and get the most out of everybody not just a selected few.

Councillor Clifford Laprise

He is from La Loche and is serving his third term. He is willing to learn at New North level and is willing to help when and where he can.

Mayor Duane Favel

Thinks that northern elections cause a lot of friction and believes that the member communities of New North need to support each other 100%. The ones who run and don't get in need to support the ones who do. He doesn't want these elections to cause any animosity amongst each other.

The voting for Director at Large was carried out again, by Sunshyne Charles and Charlene Bosiak, both of La Ronge and volunteers Marc Gaines (Municipal Affairs) and Therese Chartier (Administrator for Buffalo Narrows). Sunshyne Charles was to call out a community and the voting member of the community was to take a ballot from Charles and cast their vote in the polling station anonymously and then put the vote in the ballot box.

Mayor Duane Favel (Ile a la Crosse) was declared the Director at Large.

**MOTION 09-AGM-003** To destroy the voting ballots.

*Moved by Councillor Harley Hudson (Buffalo Narrows) / Seconded by Mayor Cliff Coombs (Michel Village)*

**Carried**

During a short break, New North CEO, Joanne Griffith gathered for an organizational meeting with each sector and member at large directors to form the New North Board. Results for the New North Board are as follows:

Chairperson – Mayor Bobby Woods (Buffalo Narrows)  
Vice Chairperson – Mayor Bruce Fidler (Creighton)  
Secretary/Treasurer – Mayor Gord Stomp (Air Ronge)  
Member at Large – Mayor Sandra Hansen (Stony Rapids)  
Member at Large – Mayor Duane Favel (Ile a la Crosse)

After AGM Chair Gord Stomp announced to the member communities the results of the New North Board, the auditor from MNP went through and explained the New North audited financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2009.

**MOTION 09-AGM-004** To accept the auditor's report as presented.

*Moved by Councillor John Diagneault (Ile a la Crosse) / Seconded by Mayor Carl Lentowicz (Denare Beach)*

**Carried**

**MOTION 09-AGM-005** To appoint MNP as auditor for the following year audit.

*Moved by Councillor Harley Hudson (Buffalo Narrows) / Seconded by Mayor Duane Favel (Ile a la Crosse)*

**Carried**

**MOTION 09-AGM-006** That the minutes from the 2008 AGM be accepted.

*Moved by Mayor Carl Lentowicz (Denare Beach) / Seconded Mayor Cliff Coombs (Michel Village)*

**Carried**

### **Resolutions**

AGM Chair Gord Stomp asked the member communities for resolutions to take forward to SUMA on behalf of all the municipalities as opposed to only one municipality. The resolutions are as follows:

Mayor Bobby Woods (Buffalo Narrows) brought forth a resolution that upgrades need to be done to present cell phone and high-speed internet services.

#### **RESOLUTION 09-AGM-001**

WHEREAS many of the Northern communities do not have access to cell phone services;

AND WHEREAS the northern communities that do have cell phone service only can be accessed within the town limits, leaving the rural areas without service;

AND WHEREAS better communication to promote safety for travelers as well as economic/business development opportunities is needed;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association lobby Saskatchewan Telecommunications to upgrade the present service across the north and to provide cell phone coverage to all northern communities as well as the surrounding rural areas.

#### **RESOLUTION 09-AGM-002**

WHEREAS many of the northern communities still do not have high-speed internet access or the service does not cover new subdivision;

AND WHEREAS high-speed internet is a major factor when addressing building capacity within the community;

AND WHEREAS the northern communities need this access in order to promote business efficiencies, educational opportunities, and personal development;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association lobby Saskatchewan Telecommunications to address the need for proper high-speed internet in all northern communities.

Mayor Gord Stomp (Air Ronge) brought forth a resolution regarding northern municipality roads, which are slowly being destroyed by large trucks transporting goods.

**RESOLUTION 09-AGM-003**

WHEREAS the highway traffic coming in and going through many northern communities has increased drastically over the past few decades, and our highways have outgrown their expectations;

AND WHEREAS many of the northern communities have bridges that are too small not only for the large trucks carrying various types of dangerous goods, but as well as for passing local pedestrians and bicyclers crossing the rivers;

AND WHEREAS various ways of upgrading our traffic corridors were recommended in the Traffic Studies report done more than two years ago for many of the northern communities, nothing has been done to alleviate the current dangers outlined in the report,

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association lobby the Saskatchewan Highways department to address the need for upgrading highway corridors in many northern communities.

Mayor Andy McKay (Cumberland House) brought forth the resolution from 08-AGM-005 regarding all the northern municipalities' landfills.

**RESOLUTION 09-AGM-004**

WHEREAS the northern communities cannot afford the costs associated with the maintenance and decommissioning of their landfills;

AND WHEREAS the Northern communities are experiencing unaffordable costs in respect to complying with landfill and water management regulations;

AND WHEREAS the northern communities are being pressured to comply with all the regulations regarding landfills;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association lobby Saskatchewan Environment for funds to assist the northern communities in complying with these regulations as well as any other environmental regulations passed down in the near future.

Mayor Bobby Woods (Buffalo Narrows) brought forth a resolution regarding Oil Sands Quest and the increasing threats it has on northern Saskatchewan lakes and forests.

### **RESOLUTION 09-AGM-005**

WHEREAS the Saskatchewan Environment Society (SES) recently released a report- *Preventing Oil Sands Fever in Saskatchewan*-which raises concerns about the increasing environmental threats to Saskatchewan's northern lakes and forest from acid rain linked to oil sands development in Alberta:

AND WHEREAS the report says that the government data shows that rain and snow fall in the La Loche region has an average pH of 4.96 and environment Canada defines acid rain as pH reading below 5.00;

AND WHEREAS the northern communities want to ensure that development of any oil sands must have an effective environmental management and monitoring system:

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association lobby Saskatchewan Environment to provide information on the amount of inter-jurisdictional pollution coming from Alberta's oil sands and assist the northern municipalities in coming up with a solution to protect our environment from this issue.

A resolution regarding increased produce prices was brought forward by Mayor Fred McCallum (Green Lake).

### **RESOLUTION 09-AGM-006**

WHEREAS the many of the northern residents rely on income from being primary and traditional producers:

AND WHEREAS the costs to produce commodities such as wild rice, cattle, fish, berries and mushrooms is increasing drastically;

AND WHEREAS the northern residents do not have many alternatives to business development in order to become self sustainable;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association lobby Saskatchewan Agriculture and First Nation and Métis Relations to work on developing a more reliable process enabling the northern producers to market their products more effectively and for a stable price in order to have an income.

Amongst the many of the resolutions for New North to take to SUMA, there were a few resolutions from the member communities for New North.

A resolution was brought forth by Councillor Harley Hudson (Buffalo Narrows) for New North to better their communication with their member communities by establishing more meetings in conjunction with the AGM and Roundtables.

**RESOLUTION 09-AGM-007**

WHEREAS the New North membership at large is concerned with the lack of communication the communities are receiving;  
AND WHEREAS the membership is concerned with the direction the New North executive is going  
AND WHEREAS the membership would like to see more communication between themselves and New North  
THEREFORE be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities request that the executive establish more general meetings for the membership; these can be held in conjunction with the AGM and the Roundtables.

A resolution was brought forth by Harley Hudson (Buffalo Narrows) for New North Executive to establish a complete set of bylaws relevant to the north.

**RESOLUTION 09-AGM-008**

WHEREAS the New North membership at large is struggling to establish a standard set of bylaws;  
AND WHEREAS the membership is also struggling with how to enforce these bylaws;  
AND WHEREAS the membership needs a training program for bylaw officers;  
THEREFORE be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities directs the New North Executive to establish a complete set of bylaws relevant to the North, provide, and fund a training program for bylaw officers.

Fred McCallum brought forth Resolution 08-AGM-001 in the 2008 AGM and he again brought forward that the resolution be implied and revised.

**RESOLUTION 09-AGM-009**

WHEREAS the New North membership at large approved resolution 08-AGM-001 directing New North to proceed with negotiation of an Impact Benefit Agreement with northern industry on behalf of northern municipalities;  
AND WHEREAS the New North membership was presented with an update on the negotiations of the Impact Benefit Agreement and the draft program outline and concept referred to as the “Industry/Community Partnership Program”;  
THEREFORE be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities Membership-at-large approves the Industry/Community Partnership program outline and concept as presented at the 2009 AGM, and directs the New North executive to continue to develop the program concept and Terms of Reference needed to negotiate with industry on the funding and establishment of the Industry/Community Partnership program on behalf of the Northern Municipalities.

There were many comments made by the member communities in regards to some of the resolutions passed and the past days events. Some included a remark by Councillor Ida Ratt-Natomagan (Pinehouse Lake) that a formal introduction needs to be done prior to meetings because of the many new faces. Mayor Fred McCallum (Green Lake) requested that the member community representatives need to stay committed to the meetings and stay for the whole event. Mayor Fred Roy (Beauval) requested that a follow-up be done by New North regarding the 2008 AGM Resolutions.

**MOTION 09-AGM-007** To close the AGM and adjourn.

*Moved by Mayor Bobby Woods (Buffalo Narrows / Seconded by Mayor Fred McCallum (Green Lake)*

**Carried**