



Shadow Populations in Northern Alberta

Presentation of the
Northern Alberta Development Council
Dan Dibbelt, Executive Director

&

Aylward Research Services
Mary Joan Aylward

Northern Alberta

- 60% of Alberta's landmass
- 12 provincial constituencies
- 10% of Alberta's population



Northern Alberta's Population

- **31% in Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, and Cold Lake**
 - **32% in smaller urban centres**
 - **37% in rural areas**
- 
- **Over 50% of Alberta's Aboriginal population**

Challenges

- **Northern reality**
 - Small and sparse population
 - Transportation infrastructure
 - Increased skill levels needed
 - **Resource-based economy**
 - Housing and community infrastructure
 - Policing, addictions and health care
 - Uneven growth and decline
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NADC's Mission


To identify and implement measures that will advance northern development, as well as advise government on opportunities and issues



The NADC Team

- **NADC Team**
- **10 Member appointed Council**
- **Chair Robin Campbell, MLA Wets Yellowhead**
- **Offices in:**
 - **Peace River 12 FTEs**
 - **Lac La Biche 3 FTEs**
 - **Edmonton 1 FTE**
- **A total of 16 FTEs.**

NADC Budget

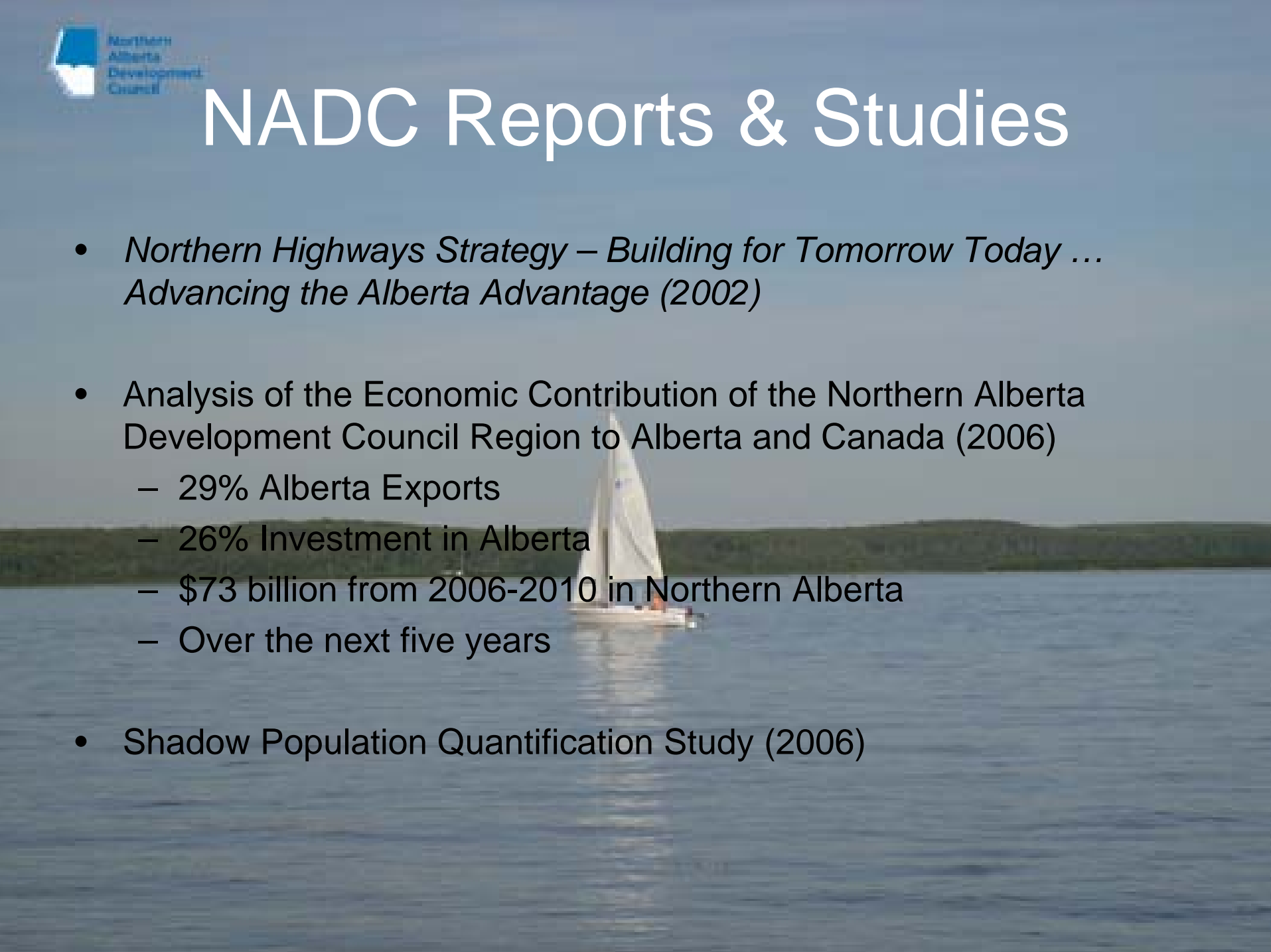
- Overall budget of 2.4 million dollars
 - Additional \$475,000 Advanced Education and \$150,000 Employment and Industry for Bursary Program
 - Northern Links \$500,000
 - \$1.7 million to salaries and operational
 - \$100,000 council
- 

NADC beyond our boundaries

- Northern Alberta Elected Leaders
- Branding the Peace
- Commuter Air Access Network Association
- Northwest Corridor Development Corporation
- Alberta/NWT MOU
- Northern Development Ministers' Forum
- Northern Forum



NADC Reports & Studies

- *Northern Highways Strategy – Building for Tomorrow Today ... Advancing the Alberta Advantage (2002)*
 - Analysis of the Economic Contribution of the Northern Alberta Development Council Region to Alberta and Canada (2006)
 - 29% Alberta Exports
 - 26% Investment in Alberta
 - \$73 billion from 2006-2010 in Northern Alberta
 - Over the next five years
 - Shadow Population Quantification Study (2006)
- 

Northerners Working Together

Northern Alberta Development Council

Peace River - Phone: 780-624-6274

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Shadow Populations in Northern Alberta

Part 1 - Quantification

Aylward Research Services

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation

June 20, 2008

What is a Shadow Population?

Collective term for all transient workers

“who resides in a municipality on a seasonal basis for a given period of time but has residence elsewhere”

Alberta Municipal Census

Purpose of the Research

To quantify the shadow population of the rural municipalities within the boundaries of the Northern Alberta development Council.

Application of the Research

The design of a quantification process which can be replicated by local government authorities seeking authorization to include a shadow population in their municipal census and calculation of per capita funding.

Research Project - Methods

- 1) Primary methods- Direct contact (phone calls, emails, surveys) with municipalities, government services, and industry
- 2) Secondary methods - Review of GOA acts, regulations, and policies; topic literature

Key Point 1 - Quantification

Alberta Municipal Affairs Guidelines for Shadow Populations

Collection period is April – June

Must be 10% of permanent population

Must be conducted annually

Must apply for authorization to include

30 day / 6 month residency requirement

NOTE: Above guidelines are not stated in the MGA or any of AMA regulations. Above is matter of policy only.

Challenges

Peak Period for industrial activity is
October to March

Individual vs. company rotations

Key Point 2 - Quantification

ASSUMPTION

Impact is local oriented however
there is a radius of impact
that is reciprocal

Key Point 3 - Quantification

No one data source that records transient workers individually or shadow population collectively

Government tracks activity not individuals

Key Point 4 - Quantification

Back to Basics

Eat and Sleep!

Key Point 5 - Quantification

Five Data Sources

Industry Camps

Hotels / Motels

Camp Sites

Municipal Land Use Permits

Public Health Records

Challenges:

Identifying all camps – participating

Not all camps are 12 month operations

Hotels / camp sites service more than
industrial

Municipalities not always informed

Public Health Records not shared with
Municipality

Key Point 6- Quantification

**Shadow Population
can not be calculated**

1:1

**For Example - 200 hotel rooms does not
mean 200 for shadow population**

Key Point 7 - Quantification

Things to Consider

Campgrounds do not operate 12 months

Hotel industrial bookings are not 100%

Industrial camps are temporary / permanent

HENCE



REQUIRES CONVERSION FACTORS

Key Point 8 - Quantification

CONVERSION FACTORS



HOTELS

of rooms

1 room = 2 persons

Annual Occupancy = 72%

Annual Industrial = 57%



CAMPS

of sites

1 bed = 1 person

Average 150 days

40% of Full-Year

Key Point 9 - Quantification

Industrial Camps

Temporary = 50% of #

Vs

Permanent = 100% of #

Challenge

Records overlapping

Hence sources could be simply added

Key Point 10 - Quantification

Culling the Data

Keep hotels

Keep campsites

&

Select the highest of the three
remaining for each municipality
(health, municipal, industrial)

EXAMPLES

Application of Conversion Factors

Calculating the Shadow Population

Example 1

MD of Mackenzie

2005 Population = 9,687

Sources for Quantification

Hotel Usage Statistics

Campsites

RHA – Food License Permits

MD of Mackenzie

2005 Population - 9,687

	Baseline	Conversion Factors			Magnitude
Hotels	660 Rooms	Double Occupancy	78% Annual Occupancy	59% Industrial Bookings	Campsites 43
	↓ Becomes	= 1320	1030	607	607
RHA	2305 beds 711 permanent	50% of Year Operating			
	↓ Becomes	= 1508			1508
Total Shadow Population					2158
Percent of Permanent Population					22.3%

Example 2

Northern Sunrise County

2005 Population = 2,354

Sources for Quantification

Hotel Usage Statistics

Campsites

Municipal – Development Permits

Northern Sunrise County - Quantification of Shadow Population

2005 Population - 9,687

	Baseline	Conversion Factors			Magnitude
Hotels	414 Rooms	Double Occupancy	78% Annual Occupancy	59% Industrial Bookings	Campsites 98
	Becomes	= 828	= 646	= 381	381
Municipal Permits	668 beds 88 Permanent	50% of Year Operating			
	Becomes	378			378
Total Shadow Population					857
Percent of Permanent Population					34.6%

Urban Centers

Cities of Grande Prairie and Cold Lake

Calculated separately

Impact from numerous municipalities

Sidebars

Government departments do not have same catchment regions
(Tourism, Census divisions, Health etc..)

Concern for safety of workers in camps in the event of a disaster, need for evacuation.

NADC Use of the Research

To assist the
Northern Alberta Development Council in
its advocacy for more resources for
Northern Communities.

Thank-you

Mary Joan Aylward
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Grande Prairie, AB

Full report available through the
Northern Alberta Development Council