



For Immediate Release

## The Alberta North Central Alliance Signing Ceremony

**September 24, 2021:** On the twenty-third day of September, in the presence of representatives from five municipalities and five First Nations, the Governance Protocols for the Alberta North Central Alliance (ANCA) were signed.

The first of its kind in Canada, the Alberta North Central Alliance is comprised of members from the Town of Slave Lake, Sawridge First Nation, the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River, Sucker Creek First Nation, Bigstone Cree Nation, Big Lakes County, Kapawe'no First Nation, the Town of High Prairie, Driftpile Cree Nation, and the Municipal District of Opportunity. The objective of this agreement is to build strong, enduring, and transparent inter-governmental relationships for the betterment of all peoples of the North Central Region.

*"Issues concerning Northern Alberta do not often get a lot of attention," shared Big Lakes County Reeve Ken Matthews, "We have an opportunity with this alliance to bring a louder voice to issues that affect our region."*

*"Over the last several years, the Town of High Prairie has made it a priority to work collaboratively with our neighbours," explained Mayor Brian Panasiuk. "We are excited to be a part of this larger group and help contribute to regional success."*

*"I am excited to work with the other Regional elected leaders to improve the quality of life for all the people we represent," agreed the Town of Slave Lake Mayor Tyler Warman, "I am hoping through the sharing of ideas that we build a foundation of trust and mutual respect that will last for years to come, and that our actions and successes encourage other jurisdictions to put more effort in collaboration."*

As a region, these communities understand that the path forward for economic success, truth, and reconciliation, and the well-being of all Canadians are dependent on real, meaningful, and equal partnerships.

*"When we formed Tri-Council ten years ago with the Town of Slave Lake and Sawridge First nation, our goal was not to make history; it was to make the best of a bad situation," shared Murray Kerik, Reeve of the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River. "We sought to pool our collective knowledge, resources, and relationships for the common good; to forge farther together than would have been possible on our own. This same spirit of solidarity is evident in the partnership agreement before us today, and I am proud to be a signatory."*

As a first-of-its-kind partnership, ANCA hopes to be a group willing to work together to achieve common goals, create dialogue between their members, and seek out common solutions to the net benefit of the region.

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