

Highlights

- ✓ New \$11.2 million health centre in La Loche, and new \$12 million Athabasca health centre under construction in Stony Rapids
- ✓ \$13.7 million Athabasca seasonal road completed, and more than \$10 million spent on Hwys 155, 955 and 909
- ✓ New \$4.3 million school for Pinehouse
- ✓ 40 locally-constructed new houses for La Loche
- ✓ Support for forestry training
- ✓ Seven west side fisheries coops shared in a \$700,000 Centenary Fund grant program in 2001-2.
- ✓ Sewer and water completed in Stony Rapids at a cost of \$3.7 million.
- ✓ Total of \$6,702,810 spent on municipal infrastructure in 14 communities between 1999 and 2001
- ✓ MOU signed to promote training for forestry jobs
- ✓ MOU signed to promote west side employment in the Alberta oilsands
- ✓ Social assistance caseload down by 26% in Buffalo Narrows
- ✓ Casino funds help projects in La Loche, Pinehouse and Stony Rapids
- ✓ KidsFirst funding to support early childhood development in Ile a la Crosse.

About Buckley:

Buckley Belanger was mayor of Ile a la Crosse from 1988-1995, when he was first elected to the provincial legislature representing the Athabasca constituency. In 1999 he was re-elected and appointed to cabinet as Minister of Environment and Resource Management (SERM) and Associate Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs. In 2001 he was reappointed to SERM and also given responsibility for Northern Affairs. He is currently minister of Northern Affairs. He and wife Becky maintain a home in Ile a la Crosse. They have three daughters.

To my constituents:

The future for the Athabasca constituency looks very bright. Community-based forestry development on the west side, along with mining exploration and development and tourism in the Athabasca Basin, will all contribute to the increasingly diverse economy of the region. Traditional industries are also being recognized and supported by government.

A road connection from La Loche to the rich Alberta oilsands will open new opportunities for employment and tourism. Saskatchewan has already completed its part of the road, and Alberta is looking closely at completing its portion.

I will work hard to help you meet and beat global challenges to our industries such as duties on lumber exports to the U.S. or restrictive government policies.

As M.L.A., I will continue to work hard for my Athabasca constituents, and to improve life for all northern Saskatchewan residents.

Buckley Belanger, M.L.A.

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Buckley Belanger M.L.A.



Report to the Athabasca Constituency

Spring 2002

Helping our residents take
advantage of development
through training and
infrastructure

The La Loche Health Centre



HEALTH FACILITIES

The new \$11.2 million La Loche health facility opened in November 2001. The province provided \$10 million; the community raised the rest. The centre has acute, emergency and long-term beds, and also houses community health services.

A brand new health centre is under construction in Stony Rapids at a cost of almost \$12 million. The centre will provide modern health services to Athabasca Basin residents.

Two west side residents have earned an Applied Certificate in Property Management following completion of a two-year training program. They are now fully qualified as social housing property managers in Saskatchewan. In 2000 and 2001, there were 65 housing commitments totalling almost \$2.5 million in the Athabasca constituency, in addition to repair program commitments of \$12,307.

HOUSING



Housing management trainees in Buffalo Narrows

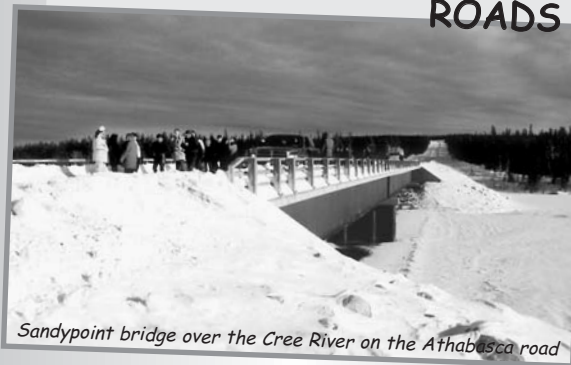


EDUCATION

These students at the new \$4.3 million school in Pinehouse are very happy to be in their new building. The new school, along with many upgrading and renovations projects in other communities, is all part of Buckley's commitment to improving education in the north.

The Athabasca seasonal road, constructed at a cost of \$13.7 million, and funded by provincial, federal and First Nations governments, was officially opened in February 2000 when a busload of dignitaries made the 180-km journey from Points North to Black Lake. *The road is lowering the cost of living in the region by reducing freight costs and allowing residents to drive in and out rather than fly. Discussions towards an all-weather road continue.*

ROADS



Sandypoint bridge over the Cree River on the Athabasca road



FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

In June 2001, Buckley was signatory to an MOU committing \$859,000 to forestry training in the province. This provincial commitment leveraged almost \$4 million in total training dollars, a good portion of which were spent in the Athabasca constituency. Forestry will be a big contributor to the economy of west side communities once planned projects get started.



EMPLOYMENT

In early March, as minister of Northern Affairs, Buckley was pleased to add his name to the many who recently signed an MOU to work together to maximize Saskatchewan employment in the adjacent Alberta oilsands. The agreement, called "Northern Neighbours - A Partnership for Jobs", will bring several agencies together to prepare west side residents for employment in the oilsands projects.