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Newly paved highway serves Metis settlement

Projects remove gravel section sandwiched between paved sections

Lac La Biche... Motorists will be able to drive to and from the Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement on a completely paved highway by Fall 2006.

Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation plans to pave 20 kilometres of Highway 855 from the Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement boundary north to the settlement's access road near the highway's junction with Highway 663 near Caslan.

"This paving project represents government's commitment to improving our highway network to benefit travellers and support Alberta's strong economy," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation.

The \$ 6.0 million project may begin this fall and is planned to be completed by next fall. These 20 kilometres of new pavement will connect to a 16.5-kilometre paved section completed earlier this year between the Hanmore Lake access and the settlement boundary.

"I'm pleased to see over 36 kilometres of gravel highway being replaced by pavement," said Ray Danyluk, MLA for Lac La Biche-St. Paul. "This highway will be safer and improve access to the Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement and the region in general."

Danyluk also praised the contributions of the Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement toward this project and the assistance residents provided to the department.

On average, paving a highway reduces collisions by 29 per cent.

The Alberta government will invest \$669 million for the construction and preservation of the province's highway network in 2005-06.

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