



STATEMENT OF INTENT

Among the Governors, Premiers, Ministers and Chairs
of northern regions,

At the Third Northern Regions Conference,
Governor's Summit on Regional Environmental Cooperation

The states, provinces, territories, counties and autonomous regions of the North share common concerns regarding environmental protection, economic well-being and the appropriate role of regional governments in decision-making which affects the North.


The economies of northern regions are highly dependent upon natural resources and have historically been subject to cycles of boom and bust. The leaders of northern regions share a common desire to develop and maintain stable and sustainable economies and recognize the need to protect the flora and fauna upon which northern peoples depend.

Numerous species of fish, waterfowl, marine and terrestrial mammals migrate across national borders of the northern regions. Coordination and cooperation in their management and use are required.

Transboundary air and water pollution affecting the North requires special attention.

Recognizing the special responsibilities to maintain the unique culture, economy and way of life of indigenous people inhabiting remote northern regions,

Recognizing the special responsibilities and special interests of the Northern Regions to manage and protect shared natural resources and ecosystems, to prevent and deal with air, land, and water pollution originating both within and outside the northern regions, and to restore damaged natural areas, the participants in the Northern Regions Conference, Governors' Summit,



HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE:

I. NORTHERN FORUM

To establish a Northern Forum as a mechanism for regular interactions among those who are northern leaders by virtue of the offices they hold or by virtue of their ability to represent the views of significant northern publics.

II. PURPOSES

The purposes of the Northern Forum are:

- A. to improve the quality of local, national, and international decision-making regarding northern issues by providing a means through which northern voices can be heard at all stages of the process,
- B. to offer opportunities to exchange ideas, solve common problems, and plan cooperative initiatives regarding issues that are unique to the North or that take on special significance for the Northern Regions.

III. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- A. The Northern Forum will be established as a permanent organization.
- B. The governing body the Northern Forum will be a Council with representation of all participating regions.
- C. The Northern Forum will be served by a small secretariat to be located in one of the participating northern regions.
 - 1. As an interim measure, the Office of the Governor of Alaska will provide staff services to receive and disseminate more specific proposals regarding the Northern Forum's terms of reference.

2. Within six months, the Office of the Governor of Alaska will circulate draft by-laws of the Northern Forum for comment and approval by participating regions. Within three months after circulation, the Council will meet to initiate the work of the Forum.
- D. The Northern Forum will meet in plenary session every second year.
 - E. In alternate years the work of the Northern Forum will be carried out by the Council.
 - F. A working group will be formed to prepare a list of specific priorities for action based on the discussion at the Governor's Summit.

IV. ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN

The Northern Forum will work to improve the quality of decision-making and to solve problems in the following areas of common concern;

- environmental assessment, monitoring, and research
- infrastructure, including northern communications and transportation systems
- northern technology and engineering
- human resources, including culture, education, and health
- protection and cooperative management of northern renewable resources
- pollution prevention and clean-up

V. PRIORITY PROJECTS

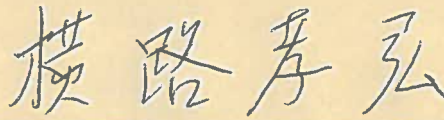
The working group (III F) should give consideration to the following concrete projects:

- joint efforts to establish communication networks among northern peoples, with special emphasis on television;
- shared monitoring of atmospheric pollution (e.g. nitrogen and sulphur oxides);

- joint research on oil production in northern seas;
- interaction among the peoples of the North;
- opportunities for opening the Northern Sea Route to international shipping;
- action to ensure that best available environmental technology is employed and properly financed in the North;
- joint research on hazardous waste disposal and the safe clean-up of contaminants;
- international dissemination of knowledge about the special situation of northern hunting societies;
- collaboration among the northern regions on oil spill prevention and response;
- joint efforts to protect the cultures of northern peoples;
- improvement of northern and Arctic environmental monitoring and creation of regional data systems for ecological and meteorological influences on northern regions; and
- monitoring of northern peoples' adaptation to industrial development and making appropriate proposals based on this effort.



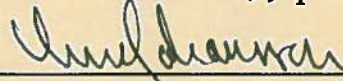
Steve Cowper, Governor
Alaska, USA



Takahiro Yokomichi, Governor
Hokkaido, Japan



N.N. Danilyuk, Governor
Khabarovsk, Soviet Union



Sven Johansson, Governor
Vasterbotten, Sweden



Alexander Khomyakov
Russian Federation, USSR



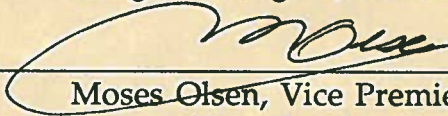
Ralph Klein, Minister
Alberta, Canada



V.I. Kobets, Governor
Magadan Region, USSR



Asko Oinas, Governor
Lapland/Finland



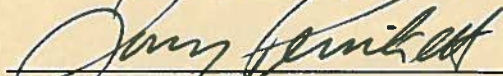
Moses Olsen, Vice Premier
Greenland



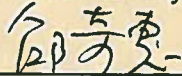
Dave Parker, Minister
British Columbia, Canada



Dennis Patterson, Gov't Leader
Northwest Territory, Canada



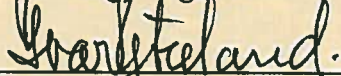
Tony Penikett, Premier
Yukon Territory, Canada



Qi-Hui Shao, Governor
Heilongjiang, China



Booth Gardner, Governor
Washington, USA

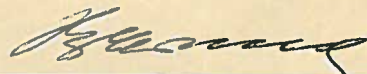


Ivar Ytreland, Governor
Committee.
Trondelag, Norway



A.N. Chilingarov, State


Moscow, USSR



V.D. Mudrakov, Deputy Chairman
Yamalo-Nenetsky, USSR



Valentin Byodorov, Chairman
Sakhalin Region, USSR



Vladimir Etylen, Governor
Chukotka, USSR



Boris Korsunskiy, Governor
Jewish Autonomous Region, USSR