



NORTHERN CO-OPERATION ACCORD

AMONG:

The Government of Nunavut as represented by its Premier

AND:

The Government of Northwest Territories as represented by its Premier

AND:

The Government of Yukon as represented by its Premier

(collectively the “Three Governments”).

WHEREAS the Three Governments acknowledge their ties of history, geography and peoples and the unique circumstances of Canada’s North;

AND WHEREAS the Three Governments welcome the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of each other’s views and experience on a range of issues;

AND WHEREAS the Three Governments have mutual concerns and interests around matters respecting sustainable economic development, political evolution, Aboriginal peoples rights and aspirations, the environment and social framework;

AND WHEREAS the Three Governments recognize the unique and important role of Aboriginal people in northern social and political institutions;

AND WHEREAS the Three Governments wish to explore opportunities to share information, to formally collaborate on matters of mutual concern and interest and to develop a common voice on a northern agenda;

THEREFORE the Three Governments hereby agree to this Northern Co-operation Accord as outlined below:

1. INTENT

The intent of this Accord is to promote cooperation between the Three Governments on matters of mutual concern and interest, to promote sharing of information relevant to such concerns and interests and to enhance the working relationship among the Three Governments.

2. PRINCIPLES

- 2(1)** The Three Governments intend to promote cooperation and collaboration on matters of mutual concern and interest using approaches that respect each Government's needs and resources.
- 2(2)** The Three Governments recognize there may be different perspectives on various issues due to unique circumstances of capacity, history, priorities and aspirations.
- 2(3)** The Three Governments agree that this Accord shall not constrain any of the Three Governments from exercising its own powers and responsibilities as a territorial government.
- 2(4)** The Three Governments recognize the importance of maintaining positive working relationships with other jurisdictions and agree that this Accord does not replace any existing intergovernmental relationships nor does it prevent any of the Three Governments from entering into agreements with other jurisdictions in the future.

3. MECHANISMS TO PROMOTE COOPERATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

- 3(1)** The Three Governments intend to enable or promote:
 - a)** the enhancement of working relationships at both the political and official level;
 - b)** the development and advancement of a common agenda on matters of mutual concern and interest;
 - c)** the sharing of information relevant to such matters of mutual concern and interest
 - d)** the fostering of economic opportunities;
 - e)** the maximization of benefits for northern people; and
 - f)** the provision of mutual support in matters of regional, territorial, national and international interest.

4. NO LEGAL OR FINANCIAL OBLIGATION CREATED

This Accord is not intended to create any legal or contractual rights or obligations and is not to be construed as imposing any financial obligation on any of the Three Governments.

5. ANNUAL NORTHERN PREMIERS' FORUM

- 5(1)** There shall be a "Northern Premiers' Forum" whereby the Premiers of the Three Governments shall meet once a year at a time and place mutually agreed upon by them to discuss those matters set out on the Forum's agenda.
- 5(2)** Prior to the annual meeting, the Three Governments shall prepare and approve an agenda of matters to be discussed and considered at the meeting, which may include:
- a) issues of regional, territorial, national and international interest; and
 - b) a review of progress and recommendations arising from jointly conducted departmental and/or sectoral work.
- 5(3)** In addition to the matters identified through the Northern Premiers' Forum, Northern Ministers and their officials will be encouraged to collaborate on departmental or sectoral issues where such activity will result in improved individual or joint territorial outcomes.

6. COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Three Governments may appoint officials to serve as principal contacts for the coordination and organization of the annual Northern Premiers' Forum and for the expeditious sharing of information about matters of mutual concern and interest.

7. TERM OF ACCORD

This Accord shall be in effect for a period of three years from the date of signing. Upon written consent, this Accord may be renewed for a further term as agreed to by the Three Governments.

8. AMENDMENTS

This Accord may be reviewed and amended at the Northern Premiers' Forum with the written consent of the Three Governments.

9. TERMINATION

This Accord may be terminated by any of the Three Governments upon written notice being given to the other two Governments at least 60 days in advance of the termination date.

This Accord signed by the Three Governments in Cambridge Bay

on this 3rd day of September 2003.

For the Government of Nunavut:



The Honourable Paul Okalik
Premier, Government of Nunavut

For the Government of the Northwest Territories:



The Honourable Stephen Kakfwi
Premier, Government of the Northwest Territories

For the Government of Yukon:



The Honourable Dennis Fentie
Premier, Government of Yukon