

Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
and
Government of the Northwest Territories

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

On

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

April 2015



**Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC)
and
Government of the Northwest Territories
(GNWT)
Intergovernmental Agreement
on
Programs and Services Cooperation and Coordination**

PREAMBLE

Whereas the Parties are committed to building and maintaining a mutually respectful government to government relationship;

And Whereas the Parties acknowledge that cooperation and coordination among political leadership and senior officials is key to fulfilling the potential of the government to government relationship;

And Whereas the Parties wish to build on their relationship and have agreed to work together in a manner consistent with the October 2, 1999 Inuvialuit and Gwich'in Political Accord;

And Whereas the GNWT recognizes that the Inuvialuit are an Aboriginal people of Canada and that the inherent right of self-government is an existing Aboriginal right under Section 35(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982;

And Whereas the Inuvialuit and the GNWT are committed to achieving an Inuvialuit Self-government agreement by way of good faith negotiations;

And Whereas, the parties recognize cooperative arrangements related to programs and services can build capacity in preparation for self-government.

Now therefore, the Parties agree as follows:

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Intergovernmental Agreement is to confirm commitments between the GNWT and IRC to develop cooperative measures and agreements to jointly focus on improving programs and services in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and Inuvialuit communities.

Appendix 1 to this Agreement lists specific projects identified through the Beaufort Delta Agenda as an example of areas of potential cooperation and collaboration.

PRIORITY TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION

The priority topic for further consideration and discussion include:

- health and social services,
- culture and language,
- education,
- income support,
- services for elders,
- housing,
- economic development,
- employment, skill development, capacity building and job training,
- policing and justice; and
- any other areas of mutual interest identified by the IRC and the GNWT

The GNWT and IRC will jointly identify specific projects related to programs and services for which they will endeavour to achieve intergovernmental arrangements, as soon as practicable after signing this agreement.

Where the Parties agree to undertake joint investments in programs or services the Parties will enter into a separate agreement(s) or arrangement(s) setting out their respective commitments, including funding or other resources.

GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Meetings of Elected Leaders

Regular meetings of elected leaders will build and maintain a government to government relationship between the IRC and the GNWT.

- There shall be at least one meeting a year between the IRC Board of Directors and all Members of the GNWT Executive Council.
- Efforts will be made to schedule meetings to ensure that dialogue takes place prior to the Operating and Maintenance and Capital Planning processes.
- Meetings will be co-chaired by the Premier of the Northwest Territories and the Chair of the IRC.
- Each government may invite other elected officials, senior staff and other advisors, such as Elders, to attend these meetings. Only the IRC Board of Directors and Members of the GNWT Executive Council will sit at the table.
- Prior to these meetings, the governments shall reach agreement on a joint agenda.

- At the conclusion of these meetings, or as soon as is practical after these meetings, the governments will agree upon a joint summary of outcomes and commitments.

Meetings of Officials

Meetings between senior officials will support the government to government work of elected leaders.

- Each government will designate a lead official responsible for coordinating preparation and follow-up of the meetings of elected leaders.
- Officials shall meet in order to assist in the scheduling of, and preparation for, meetings of elected leaders, including developing a joint agenda and shared briefing materials.
- Officials shall work together with the objective of improving intergovernmental relations and assisting with the identification of potential joint projects and intergovernmental arrangements.
- At the conclusion of these meeting of elected officials, or as soon as is practical after these meetings, officials will assist in the development of the summary of outcomes and commitments and will develop a work plan in support of the meetings to ensure that meeting outcomes are fulfilled where applicable.

Annual Reporting

Lead officials will prepare an annual report to be provided to the Parties describing the status of any cooperative measures or agreements identified to improve programs and services in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

INFORMATION SHARING

The IRC and GNWT recognize that in order to effectively make progress in areas of mutual interest it is important that information be shared in an open and timely manner.

In order to facilitate achieving effective progress on areas of mutual interest, the IRC and GNWT will adhere to the following protocols for effective communication between governments:

- Each government will notify the other of upcoming activities, regional visits, emergent issues of concern, and upcoming consultations.

For example, the GNWT should advice the IRC when Ministers and/or MLAs are intending to visit Inuvialuit communities.

Protocols for formal correspondence include:

- GNWT formal correspondence addressed to the Chair and Chief Executive Officer should be copied to IRC Director of Intergovernmental Relations, the Premier of the Northwest Territories and the Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations;
- IRC formal correspondence addressed to the Premier of the Northwest Territories should be copied to the Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations; and
- IRC formal correspondence addressed to Ministers of the GNWT should be copied to the Premier of the Northwest Territories and the Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations.

COSTS

All costs associated with the activities highlighted within this agreement are the individual responsibility of the participating government.

EFFECT OF THE AGREEMENT

Nothing in this agreement creates legal obligations.

Nothing in this agreement shall constrain the respective governments from exercising their powers and responsibilities.

Nothing in this agreement prevents the Parties from participating in other intergovernmental processes or agreements.

TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT

This agreement shall be in effect for a period of four years from the date of signing and may be periodically reviewed and may be renewed for further terms as agreed to by both governments.

This agreement may be terminated by either government upon written notice to the other government at least 60 days in advance of the termination date. If this Intergovernmental Agreement is terminated, it will not affect any other agreements or understandings then in place between the Parties.

SIGNATORIES

The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation – Government of the Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding Programs and Services is signed by the

Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Government of the Northwest Territories on this 27th
day of April, 2015.



Signing for the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation



Signing for the Government of the Northwest Territories

Appendix I – Beaufort Delta Agenda 2014 (excerpts)

1. Early Childhood Development

PRIORITY	PROPOSED PROJECT/ACTION
1.1 Improve pre- and post-natal parenting programs	1.1.1 Improve Parenting Programs - pre-and post-natal fitness and nutrition
1.2 Enhance early childhood programs	1.2.1 Provide access to day care for all families (sufficient spaces, subsidies)
	1.2.2 Improve programs, counseling services and supports for parents, community members and caregivers
	1.2.3 Ensure compliance under the NWT Child Day Care Act and Regulations
1.3 Integrate Culture & Language in ECD Programs	1.3.1 Inuvialuit Culture and language are entrenched in pre-school programs See 4 – Culture & language
1.4 Improve assessment and intervention programs	1.4.1 Establish a Therapeutic Support Team to assist in diagnosis of children with developmental challenges and Improve access to speech and language specialists physiotherapists, developmental therapists and other specialists
	1.4.2 Implement Integrated Preschool Programs case management for children with special needs
1.5 Improve co-ordination and collaboration	1.5.1 Better integration and coordination of Early Childhood programs. Simplify complex program access, administration and accountability
	1.5.2 Increase family involvement in the early childhood centres and programs
	1.5.3 Longer term planning and multi-year funding
1.6 Improve training of Early Childhood Workers	1.6.1 Develop and implement training and certification Standards for early childhood educators (Aurora College)
	1.6.2 Ensure competitive salaries for early childhood workers
1.7 Improve early childhood infrastructure	1.7.1 Establish an early childhood centre with equipment and learning material in each community

2. K-12 Education

PRIORITY	PROPOSED PROJECT/ACTION
2.1 Improve Student Attendance	2.1.1 Increase stay-in-school initiatives for students at risk of dropping out of high school
	2.1.2 Implement strategies to improve attendance
2.2 Increase Parent and Community Involvement	2.2.1 Increase community and parental involvement in school activities
2.3 Implement Program improvements	2.3.1 A higher degree of instruction in literacy, math, technology, science and trades, including pre-apprenticeship programs, leading to post-secondary opportunities
	2.3.2 Establish interactive distance learning program for completing Grade 12
2.4 Incorporate aboriginal language and culture throughout curriculum	2.4.1 Inuvialuit Culture and language entrenched in school programs See 4 – Culture & language
2.5 Improve assessment and support for special needs students	2.5.1 Implement standard grade testing and full reporting of results to parents and guardians
	2.5.2 Complete individual student assessments and learning plans
	2.5.3 Increase programs to support students who are exceeding their grade levels
2.6 Enhance teaching resources	2.6.1 Improve upon teacher/student ratios
	2.6.2 Recruit Education Support Worker/Ability Education Assistant for each school for assessments and Individualized Learning Plans
	2.6.3 Recruit School Liaison Worker for each school to coordinate student 'case management' – student, parent and teachers
	2.6.4 Identify or recruit Career Counselors in each school
	2.6.5 Enhanced special needs training for all educators and assistants

	2.6.6 Increase other specialist teaching staff and training, including speech and language specialists, literacy and math coaches, trades instructors, program support teachers for special needs students, and computer technology support
2.7 Teacher Retention	2.7.1 Retention strategy to decrease turnover rates
	2.7.2 Promote teaching as a career choice in the NWT
	2.7.3 Conduct orientation/ cross cultural awareness sessions for new staff
2.8 Improve Infrastructure	2.8.1 Enhance education infrastructure including virtual classroom teaching aides and internet resources and specialized classroom space, labs, trade shops and equipment

3. Capacity Building and Employment

PRIORITY	PROPOSED PROJECT/ACTION
3.1 Enhanced Adult Education Programs	3.1.1 Increase literacy Outreach & adult education programs and learning plans
	3.1.2 Introduction of monetary incentive for adults to return to school
	3.1.3 Adapt ABE Curriculum/Building Essential industry-specific training/job skills needed by employers
3.2 Enhanced Post-Secondary Support	3.2.1 Enhance funding and support for students in post-secondary and professional programs
	3.2.2 Target professions for increasing post-secondary enrollment in areas where there are shortages of staff [nursing] or shortages of aboriginal staff [teachers, managers]
	3.2.3 Seek a funding opportunity to replace the Building Inuvialuit Potential Society (BIPS) program and the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF)
	3.2.4 Establish comprehensive post-secondary support services, including: guidance and career counseling, tutoring services, childcare, additional subsidies, job placement support

	3.2.5 Increase availability of practical work experience on-the-job training and mentorship programs
3.3 Improve interactive distance learning in communities	3.3.1 Develop and implement a strategy to conduct interactive distance learning in communities
3.4 Enhance Employment Support Services	3.4.1 Establish or improve the effectiveness of an Employment Officer/Career Support position in every community
	3.4.2 Establish work place coaches & tutors: Community Learning Network Model: CDIF, Adult Educators, Tutors, others
	3.4.3 Enhance Youth and Student summer employment opportunities
3.5 Improve support for Board (Leadership) Governance	3.5.1 Develop and deliver Community Operations Certificate Program (2008) for: Board Governance, Board Administration, finance, HR and the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA)
3.6 Staff development programs	3.6.1 Introduce Workplace Literacy Initiatives in community government offices
	3.6.2 Develop and implement a strategy to increase the number of Inuvialuit employees in IRC
	3.6.3 Promote understanding of the opportunities resulting from Inuvialuit Final Agreement and the Self-government
	3.6.4 Complete a self-government capacity building training plan and Certificate Program
	3.6.5 Identify training needs and develop plans for individual employees based on their job description
	3.6.6 Support continuing professional development through short courses, mentorship, internship, and workshops
3.7 Improve Professional Recruiting and Retention	3.7.1 Provide incentives (housing, salaries and benefits) to increase retention rates to attract and retain professionals
3.8 Improve Infrastructure	3.8.1 Provide equipment and support for distance education including enhanced Internet connection

4. Culture and Language

PRIORITY	PROPOSED PROJECT/ACTION
4.1 Implement Inuvialuit Language Plan – To Enhance Language & Culture Programming and Greater Inuvialuit control over Language and culture	4.1.1 Promote Inuvialuktun use through the development, publishing and distribution of Inuvialuktun teaching and learning resources
	4.1.2 Language and culture curriculum to be taught in Child Development Centres, elementary and secondary school curriculum, including Total Immersion K-3
	4.1.3 Continue to provide support for Aboriginal language teachers
	4.1.4 Continue to provide the necessary salary and travel costs for an Inuvialuit Language Specialist and Community positions to carry out or facilitate the language use, promotion and acquisition
	4.1.5 Improve cultural resources in school for children to engage in traditional activities like sewing, carving
	4.1.6 Expand support programs that teach Inuvialuit History, Language, values and traditional skills in an on-the-land setting
	4.1.7 Carry out Cross culture awareness for professional staff
	4.1.8 Develop programs to support the consumption of locally harvested foods
	4.1.9 Increase greater Inuvialuit control over policies, programs, funding and delivery related to Inuvialuit Language and Culture
4.2 Strengthen support for Inuvialuit Cultural activities	4.2.1 Support traditional activities; such as Arctic Sports and Drum Dance Groups
	4.2.2 Plan, manage, document and publicize significant cultural events in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region
	4.2.3 Address and reduce conflicts around harvesting times and Government programming to maximize community access to on the land and traditional activities
4.3 Preserve and improve access to Inuvialuit cultural	4.3.1 Complete the development of the Inuvialuit websites (e.g. Smithsonian Project, Taimani)
	4.3.2 Establish Inuvialuit Archive and Traditional Knowledge library

materials	4.3.3 Make digitized recordings of Inuvialuit oral history, distribute to communities and create links to IRC website
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5. Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

PRIORITY	PROPOSED PROJECT/ACTION
5.1 Strengthen promotion of Healthy Lifestyles	5.1.1 Develop and implement regional and Community Health Promotion Strategies/Wellness plans
	5.1.2 Develop a comprehensive youth strategy
	5.1.3 Establish High School Workshops and community based Social Marketing to promote the benefits of physical activity and selecting and preparing healthy foods
	5.1.4 Enhance recreation programming – more opportunities and more culturally relevant programs Fitness Specialist
	5.1.5 Increase funding to programs combining harvesting and recreational activities such as “Take a Kid Trapping”
	5.1.6 Improve the availability of healthy foods
	5.1.7 Educate communities on suicide prevention
	5.1.8 Establish a life skills program that includes skill building in areas such as budgeting, money management, healthy relationships, balanced lifestyles, etc
	5.1.9 Deliver programs to educate youth on addictions, sexual health and healthy relationships
5.2 Family Wellness and Parenting Programming	5.2.1 Establish Family resource centre and team provide additional support to families and parents through culturally relevant wellness programs and support services
	5.2.2 Develop a regional mental health and addictions prevention strategy, including smoking addiction

5.3 Addictions intervention programs	5.3.1	Develop and establish a comprehensive addictions recovery system include full-service addictions treatment, detoxification and aftercare programming
	5.3.2	Enhance specialized services such as Counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, Mental Health and Addictions Counselor, Elder Support Worker, Resolution Health Support Worker, Outreach Worker, Advocate, Peer Support Workers, Wellness Workers, Cultural Support Workers
	5.3.3	Enhance numbers and afterhours access to trauma counselors
	5.3.4	Establish Addictions and Mental Health Coordinator position
5.4 Improve access to Health care Service	5.4.1	Develop strategy for better access to health care services for those communities at a disadvantage due to distance and population. Improved satellite support such as Tele-health. Establish the Chronic Disease Management Team and Oral Health Program
	5.4.2	Enhance programs to support local people being trained in health care professions
	5.4.3	Implement strategy for recruiting and retaining health care professionals
	5.4.4	Support programs for elders
	5.4.5	Enhance access and quality of dental care services
5.5 Safe Communities	5.5.1	Establish clear, culturally appropriate community based justice initiatives
	5.5.2	Hiring Community Safety Officers
	5.5.3	Strategies to combat elder abuse
	5.5.4	Increase number of foster homes
	5.5.5	Ensure access to women's shelters
	5.5.6	Run workshops on violence prevention
5.6 Improved Coordination of Wellness programs	5.6.1	Improve coordination and case management of community service delivery of mental health, income support, employment, preventative health care, child welfare, addiction prevention and treatment, and community based justice
	5.6.2	Establish Regional Addictions and Mental Health Outreach and Advocacy Program

	5.6.3 Develop and establish Multi-year funding agreements and levels funding levels
5.7 Improved wellness Infrastructure	5.7.1 Establish Regional Community Wellness Centre for Detox and Treatment Services, Transitional Housing, Counseling & Support Services, Drop-in Centre, Sober Club Activities, Cultural Activities, Health and Wellness Library, and Partnering Agency

6. Housing & Income support

PRIORITY	PROPOSED PROJECT/ACTION
6.1 Revise income support policies	6.1.1 Increase Income Support levels for those most in need
	6.1.2 Remove disincentives to work
	6.1.3 Reducing assessed rent for individuals who choose to make defined contributions towards home ownership
6.2 Sweat equity in home rental and home ownership programs	6.2.1 Develop and implement alternative models that encourage labor as an alternative to cash
6.3 Policies should accommodate cultural values	6.3.1 Provide shelter to a family member in need - should not be a cause of housing insecurity
	6.3.2 Housing design and construction should consider culture
6.4 Local solutions to address chronic issues related to housing	6.4.1 Communities to engage with the NWT HC to determine how local efforts can promote long-term solutions
6.5 Established a community housing innovations fund	6.5.1 Home ownership programs should embrace alternative models of ownership and equity
	6.5.2 Public housing programs should embrace alternative models such as transitional, semi-independent, and support living options

7. Economy

PRIORITY	PROPOSED PROJECT/ACTION
7.1 Improvements to economic development programs	7.1.1 Consolidate community economic development programs within the Community Economic Development Organization (CEDO) division of IRC
	7.1.2 Establish multi-year funding options and funding levels
	7.1.3 Identify Long-term Inuvialuit strategic economic objectives
	7.1.4 Review federal and territorial programs and IFA socio-economic measures and identify measures to improve results
	7.1.5 Continue to promote and take advantage of economic development in a number of sectors including Tourism, Small Business, Traditional Economy and Arts and Crafts
7.2 Increase support for Arts and Crafts	7.2.1 Hire marketing specialist/business manager for IRC craft store
	7.2.2 Develop and implement a strategy for business operations of the Craft Store that enhances capacity, sales and opportunity for Inuvialuit artisans
	7.2.3 Expand IRC Craft Shop to include web-based sales
	7.2.4 Promote and advocate with ITI and other agencies for expanded market opportunities for Inuvialuit artisans
	7.2.5 Secure supplies of raw materials for artists and crafters
7.3 Address Resource development Impacts and Benefits	7.3.1 Address potential impacts from resource development on infrastructure within the region and take full advantage of employment and business opportunities