



### 1. Statement of Policy

The Government of the Northwest Territories will protect and advance the political, economic, environmental, social and cultural interests of the people of the Northwest Territories by pursuing and fostering intergovernmental relations with federal, provincial, territorial, Aboriginal, and international governments in a strategic, coordinated and consistent fashion.

Where beneficial to the interests of the Northwest Territories, the Government of the Northwest Territories may negotiate and enter into formal written agreements and arrangements with other governments and international organizations.

### 2. Principles

The Government of the Northwest Territories will adhere to the following principles when implementing this Policy:

- (1) The Government of the Northwest Territories should develop and maintain intergovernmental relations in order to promote the political, economic, environmental, social and cultural development of the Northwest Territories and its people.
- (2) Intergovernmental relations should be coordinated so that other governments and entities will understand and consider the goals, positions and circumstances of the Northwest Territories and its peoples.
- (3) The Government of the Northwest Territories' participation in intergovernmental activities and communication should be consistent with the legislation, policies, strategies, priorities and goals established by the Government of the Northwest Territories.
- (4) The Government of the Northwest Territories should recognize the inherent right to self-government and conduct relations with Aboriginal governments on a government-to-government basis.



### 3. Scope

This policy applies to all departments, agencies and employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

### 4. Definitions

The following terms apply to this Policy:

Intergovernmental Relations: for the purposes of this Policy, Intergovernmental Relations primarily refers to political relations, as opposed to operational and administrative dealings, with the federal, provincial, territorial, Aboriginal or international governments.

Aboriginal Governments: for the purposes of this Policy, Aboriginal governments are those governments that have negotiated, or are in the process of negotiating, self-government agreements with the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada.

Community Governments: a municipal corporation or, in the absence of a municipal corporation, a community governing authority, other than an Aboriginal Government, recognized by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs as the prime public authority responsible for the provision of municipal services.

Intergovernmental Agreements: agreements between the Government of the Northwest Territories and federal, provincial, territorial, Aboriginal, or international governments containing political commitments that will publicly set, confirm or alter policy and positions, including, but not limited to Memoranda of Understanding, Agreements and Sub-Agreements, Accords, Conventions, Standards.

### 5. Authority and Accountability

#### (1) General

This Policy is issued under the authority of the Executive Council. The authority to make exceptions and approve revisions to this Policy rests with the Executive Council. Authority and accountability is further defined as follows:



(a) Minister

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (the Minister) is accountable to the Executive Council for the implementation of this Policy.

(b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (the Deputy Minister) is responsible for the administration of the Policy.

(2) Specific

(a) Executive Council

The Executive Council:

- (i) will set the overall direction of the Government of the Northwest Territories' intergovernmental relations positions, strategy, goals and plans;
- (ii) may authorize Ministers to enter into, renew or amend intergovernmental agreements signed at the Ministerial level;
- (iii) may approve guidelines, policies and procedures concerning intergovernmental relations.

(b) Financial Management Board

The Financial Management Board may approve the appropriation of resources necessary for the implementation of intergovernmental agreements.

(c) Minister

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations:



- (i) may make recommendations to the Executive Council for the overall direction of the Government of the Northwest Territories' intergovernmental relations positions, strategy, goals and plans;
- (ii) may develop, make recommendations for and periodically review guidelines, policies and procedures concerning intergovernmental relations; and
- (iii) will regularly advise the Executive Council on intergovernmental relations.

(d) Ministers

Ministers:

- (i) may make recommendations to the Executive Council for intergovernmental relations positions related to their respective mandate;
- (ii) will recommend to the Executive Council the establishment of new, or the modification of existing, intergovernmental agreements related to their respective mandates;
- (iii) will report to the Executive Council on significant intergovernmental relations activities within their departments, including their participation at any intergovernmental conferences, meetings or seminars.

(e) Deputy Minister

Deputy Minister, Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations:

- (i) may advise Deputy Heads on intergovernmental policies, initiatives, activities and agreements;
- (ii) may provide advice to assist departments in meeting the Government of the Northwest Territories' intergovernmental objectives and promoting consistency



and coordination in intergovernmental activities across the Government of the Northwest Territories;

- (iii) will review those intergovernmental agreements requiring Executive Council approval to ensure their consistency with Government of the Northwest Territories goals, objectives and policies; and
- (iv) will maintain an inventory of intergovernmental agreements approved by Executive Council and/or the Financial Management Board.

(f) Deputy Minister of Finance

The Deputy Minister of Finance may review intergovernmental agreements with financial implications before they are submitted for Executive Council approval.

(g) Deputy Minister of Justice

The Deputy Minister of Justice may carry out a legal review of intergovernmental agreements before they are submitted for Executive Council approval.

(h) Deputy Heads

Deputy Heads:

- (i) will advise the Deputy Minister, Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, of proposed significant intergovernmental relations activities within their departments;
- (ii) may participate in an Intergovernmental Relations Coordinating Committee as required;
- (iii) will be accountable for adherence to this Policy within their respective public bodies.



### 6. Provisions

(1) Intergovernmental Relations Coordinating Committee

An Intergovernmental Relations Coordinating Committee, the Chair of which shall report to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, is established.

(a) Membership

The Intergovernmental Relations Coordinating Committee will include:

- (i) Deputy Minister, Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, who will be the Chair;
- (ii) Principal Secretary;
- (iii) Secretary to Cabinet;
- (iv) Deputy Minister of Finance;
- (v) Deputy Minister of Justice;
- (vi) Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs;
- (vii) Secretary to the Financial Management Board; and
- (viii) Other Deputy Ministers as required by specific issues and activities under the Committee's consideration.

(b) Roles and Responsibilities

The Intergovernmental Relations Coordinating Committee will:

- (i) consider and share information on intergovernmental relations issues and activities and intergovernmental agreements which will set, confirm or alter Government of the Northwest Territories policies and positions;



- (ii) consider proposed Government of the Northwest Territories positions, strategies, goals and objectives for intergovernmental relations activities; and
- (iii) assist in the development of guidelines, policies and procedures on intergovernmental relations for consideration by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations.

(2) Intergovernmental Agreements

(a) Executive Council Review of Intergovernmental Agreements

- (i) The Executive Council reviews and approves all new, renewed and amended intergovernmental agreements to be signed by a Minister which will set, confirm or alter Government of the Northwest Territories policies and positions.
- (ii) Intergovernmental agreements of a purely administrative or contractual nature to be signed by Ministers or departmental officials and which do not include political commitments do not require Executive Council approval.

(b) Criteria for Executive Council Consideration

In reviewing proposed agreements the Executive Council will consider the following criteria:

- (i) the proposed agreement will have some identifiable benefit for the NWT;
- (ii) the proposed agreement will help the Government of the Northwest Territories achieve its political, economic, environmental, social and cultural goals and objectives;
- (iii) the proposed agreement is consistent with Government of the Northwest Territories legislation, policies, priorities, goals and objectives; and




- (iv) the proposed agreement has been reviewed for financial and legal implications.

(3) Relations with Community Governments

The preceding provisions notwithstanding, the Government of the Northwest Territories will continue to manage its relations with community government in accordance with established legislation and policies, including, but not limited to, the Municipal and Community Affairs Establishment Policy (21.00).

## **7. Prerogative of the Executive Council**

Nothing in this Policy shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of the Executive Council to make decisions or take action with respect to Intergovernmental Relations outside the provisions of this Policy.



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Premier and Chairman of the  
Executive Council