

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES – ALBERTA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

BETWEEN:

The Government of the **Northwest Territories** (represented by the Premier) hereinafter referred to as the “GNWT”,

And

The Government of the Province of **Alberta** (represented by the Premier) hereinafter referred to as the “Government of Alberta”.

Whereas the GNWT and the Government of Alberta, as well as specific communities within each jurisdiction, have a history of cooperation in a broad range of services, inter-jurisdictional commerce and other areas of human and economic development.

Whereas the GNWT and the Government of Alberta understand that there is potential for development in northern communities which could enhance economic conditions in or affecting these communities.

Whereas the GNWT and the Government of Alberta understand that the development of northern communities is hampered by a wide range of obstacles heightened by economic, climatic, demographic, social and logistical conditions present or affecting these communities which differ greatly from southern Canadian communities.

Whereas through cooperation and a coordinated approach in addressing northern circumstances, governments can make more effective use of resources, develop and expand sources of opportunity and implement programs and joint means of fostering economic growth.

Whereas a cooperative approach to development could have a fundamental impact especially on the regional development of Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

Whereas a blended developmental approach which considers both government programs and policies, as well as private sector activities, services and opportunities, is required if Northern Alberta and Northwest Territories residents are to share in the development of improved regional economies.

Whereas long term planning of cooperative development initiatives is essential if regional and inter-jurisdictional initiatives are to respond to emerging opportunities and the ongoing needs to regions, communities, and residents.

The GNWT and the Government of Alberta therefore understand as follows:

PURPOSE:

1. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to confirm the commitments between the jurisdictions to develop cooperative measures and agreements to:
 - Develop communities, services and infrastructure of Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories;
 - Jointly focus on increased participation by residents in the economic life of Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories;
 - Maintain and improve cooperation, consultation and joint planning in areas of mutual concern and priority in Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories;
 - Investigate the potential for joint initiatives directed at the strategic development of specific sectors, areas of joint endeavour and/or inter-jurisdictional cooperation; and to
 - Investigate the potential for and to develop options directed at economic collaborations with the private sector.

OBJECTIVES:

2. The Government of Alberta and the GNWT understand that the following objectives will guide the development of measures and agreements incorporating strategy and sector specific development initiatives:
 - a) Improved Government of Alberta-GNWT coordination of programs, opportunities and initiatives as they relate to both economic and human development;
 - b) Increased and improved provision and usage of community, regional, institutional and transportation infrastructure;
 - c) Coordinated development of the human resource base through focused development in the areas of training, education, and youth development;
 - d) Developmental strategies based on priority needs as expressed by northern residents, as well as the Government of Alberta and the GNWT;
 - e) Recognition of the principles of sustainable development capable of incorporation into development strategies; and

- f) Flexibility to respond in an ongoing manner to changing Northwest Territories and Northern Alberta development circumstances.

PRIORITIES FOR GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA/GNWT COOPERATION:

3. It is recognized between the jurisdictions that programs and policies which affect the economic development of Northern Alberta and Northwest Territories residents and communities fall under the responsibility of many different Ministers of both the GNWT and the Government of Alberta. Targeted policies and programs need to be reviewed in order to ensure maximum benefit and effectiveness to residents of the Northwest Territories and Alberta and reflect changing economic circumstances.
4. The parties will incorporate environmental stewardship, based on the principles of sustainable development, as an integral part of economic activity.
5. The jurisdictions will work together and, where applicable, will coordinate initiatives through the Ministers responsible for various programs and policies affecting development in agreed upon priority areas. These priority areas represent sectors of common interest to the jurisdictions and will form the basis of their joint collaboration under this Memorandum. Effort will be made: to build on opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation and coordination; to analyze gaps and barriers in existing programs and services; and to study potential areas of cooperation.
6. The GNWT and the Government of Alberta will cooperate in the investigation of opportunities aimed at pursuing specific measures and preparing more detailed development agreements which may include, but may not be limited to the following sectors:
 - 1) Trade
 - 2) Transportation
 - 3) Tourism
 - 4) Regional and Community Economic Development
 - 5) Resource Development
 - 6) Energy
 - 7) Environment
 - 8) Health
 - 9) Education Training and Skill Development
 - 10) Research and Innovation
7. For the five-year period identified in this Memorandum of Understanding, the GNWT and Government of Alberta have identified that priority areas shall include, but are not limited to the following:

- a) Rail Transportation services
- b) Arctic Gateway;
- c) Water Management; and
- d) Wildlife Management, including, but not limited to, Bison Management and Woodland Caribou Management.

JOINT ACTION AND COOPERATION:

- 8. The GNWT and the Government of Alberta will agree on programming responsibilities, overall resource levels and areas of common focus prior to the signing of any additional proposed agreements. The GNWT and the Government of Alberta will cooperate in the identification of areas of mutual priority and related areas of jurisdictional focus as well as sources of support which may be used in implementation strategies aimed at long term development.
- 9. The GNWT and the Government of Alberta will pursue discussions with a view to signing more detailed agreements where appropriate.

EFFECT OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:

- 10. This Memorandum of Understanding is not a legally binding agreement, but is only a definite expression and record of the purpose and intention of the parties, to which each honourably pledge themselves.
- 11. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be construed so as to affect the jurisdictional responsibility of either party.

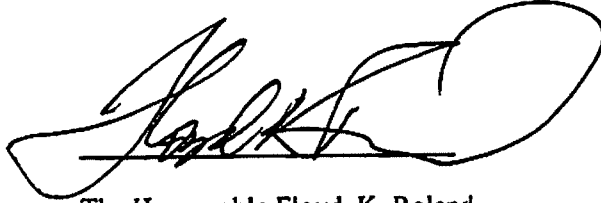
COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION:

- 12. A GNWT/Government of Alberta Steering Committee, co-chaired by representatives, approved by the Premiers, will be responsible for ensuring the intent of the Memorandum of Understanding is fulfilled and for recommending any subsequent agreements to Ministers and Premiers.
- 13. The Steering Committee will recommend management procedures for the implementation of the agreement.
- 14. The extension of the Memorandum of Understanding comes into effect on the 12th day of September 2008 and shall terminate on the 12th day of September 2013. The Memorandum of Understanding may be renewed or amended by mutual consent of the parties.

Signed:

Handwritten signature of Ed Stelmach in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

The Honourable Ed Stelmach
Premier
Government of Alberta

Handwritten signature of Floyd K. Roland in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

The Honourable Floyd. K. Roland
Premier
Government of the Northwest Territories