

Nunavut - Manitoba Memorandum of Intent on Regional and Community Economic Development

Whereas,

- Manitoba and Nunavut share a common border, and have established close transportation, trading, cultural and inter-community relationships in the last 25 years;
- The Premiers of Manitoba and Nunavut signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation and Development in February 2000, highlighting close and strong relationships; cooperation, consultation and joint planning; and further development of agreements in "regional and community economic development";
- Manitoba and Nunavut have shared expertise and inputs towards community economic development programs; community and regional round tables; economic development programs, staff training; reciprocal trade missions and priorities through the Manitoba-Nunavut Liaison Officer;
- Northern Manitoba and Kivalliq Mayors signed a MOU (2001) identifying Transportation; Energy; Tourism and Training as top priorities;
- The Churchill-Fox Lake-Gillam-Kivalliq Regional Round Table agreed to jointly address several key regional and community issues and opportunities including: Youth; Transportation; Health; Energy and Infrastructure in January 2002 and April 2002 meetings, with action planning to ensue;
- Discussions and agreement to pursue cooperative arrangements took place between Nunavut Ministers of: Community Government and Transportation; Sustainable Development; Education; Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Health and Social Services; and Public Works and Services, and Manitoba Ministers of Intergovernmental Affairs (Deputy Premier); and Aboriginal and Northern Affairs in Iqaluit, November 2001;
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Therefore, Nunavut and Manitoba hereby undertake to establish a Memorandum of Intent on Regional and Community Economic Development.

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Intent is to:

- Support the development of an effective and efficient regional and community economic development system in Nunavut.
- Improve cooperation, consultation, sharing and implementation in regional and community economic development planning, processes and projects of joint interest and mutual benefit to Manitoba and Nunavut.

Nunavut - Manitoba Memorandum of Intent on Regional and Community Economic Development

- To increase awareness of business and other development opportunities under the Nunavut-Manitoba MOU.
- To strengthen a network of regional and community economic development practitioners and officials.

Principles

A successful regional, community and economic development system is one in which regions and communities:

- Build and sustain strong organizations
- Build capacity and skills and involve volunteers and citizenry
- Nurture individual and community pride, self-reliance and leadership
- Develop regional and local visions, strategies and action plans
- Foster balanced, equitable and sustainable regional, community and economic
- Have the commitment and capital to act
- Develop businesses responsive to social, economic and environmental needs
- Network, market and celebrate
- Partner within and outside the community

Foremost in this approach to regional and community economic development is the capacity to innovate, adapt to and manage change. The principles, to the extent applicable, will apply to the initiatives and activities undertaken through this MOL

Targets / Objectives

Within the framework defined in the Nunavut-Manitoba MOU, activities initiated under this MOU will strive to be mindful and supportive of the following:

- Local Employment
- Local Ownership and Decision-Making
- Local Economic Linkages
- Reinvestments in Communities
- Local Knowledge and Skill Development
- Positive Environmental Impact
- Health and Well-being
- Stability and Community Cohesion
- Human Dignity
- Interdepartmental and Intergovernmental Collaborations

Nunavut - Manitoba Memorandum of Intent on Regional and Community Economic Development

Joint Actions

The MOI will focus on four distinct yet integrated components of Community and Regional Development. The governments of Nunavut and Manitoba will jointly develop an implementation strategy to address the following actions areas:

1. Community Economic Development

- Creating Sustainable and Effective Community Economic Development Organizations
- Providing the Right Community Economic Development Tools and Services to People, Organizations and Communities
- Training and Skills Development
- Advocating and Supporting the Development and Implementation of Community Economic Development Strategies/Plans
- Research and Development
- Bringing New Communities into Community Economic Development Practices

2. Regional Economic Development

- Creating Sustainable and Effective Regional Economic Development Organizations
- Advocating and Facilitating Inter-community Cooperation and Collaboration
- Promoting and Supporting the Development and Implementation of Regional Economic Development Strategies
- Providing Advisory, Facilitation, Research and Technical Expertise to Regional Development Organizations and Initiatives

3. Business Development

- Enhancing Access to Feasibility Studies, Loan and Equity Capital for Businesses
- Building / Enhancing Access to Community Investment Vehicles
- Providing Advisory, Mentoring and Technical Assistance to Entrepreneurs Supporting Communities in Business / Joint Initiative Opportunity Identification

4. Youth Development

- Involving Youth in the Community and in Community and Economic Development
- Developing Entrepreneurial Skills / Training for Youth
- Developing Youth Mentoring Opportunities
- Supporting Communities in Youth Business Opportunity Identification

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To undertake the above, Nunavut and Manitoba will explore exchanges between elected officials, staff exchanges / missions, and the development of a network of regional and community economic development practitioners and officials.

Activities may be undertaken either independently or jointly in support of agreed upon priorities. The parties will jointly agree on responsibilities and overall resource levels to be devoted to initiatives undertaken under the MOI.

Amendment and Termination

This memorandum may be amended by mutual agreement of the parties in writing at any time.

Either party may terminate its involvement in this memorandum by giving three months prior notice (in writing) to the other party.

Coordination and Implementation

A Nunavut-Manitoba Regional and Community Economic Development MOI Steering Committee, co-chaired by representatives designated by both Governments, will be responsible for ensuring this Memorandum of Intent is fulfilled, and for recommending any future actions to both Governments.

This Memorandum of Intent does not create any enforceable legal or equitable rights, or obligations, but merely acknowledges the intentions of the parties to pursue mutually beneficial initiatives and activities.

This Memorandum of Intent is signed on this _____ day of _____, 2002.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

The Honourable Olayuk Akesuk
Minister of Sustainable Development

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

The Honourable Manitok Thompson
Minister of Community Government
and Transportation

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

The Honourable Jean Friesen
Deputy Premier and
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs