

FPT Ministerial Report

Date: June 23rd – June 25th, 2015

Title: Northern Development Ministers Forum,
Whitehorse, Yukon

Originating Department: Economic Development & Transportation

Participants:

The Hon. Monica Eil (Nunavut), Hon. Stacey Hassard (Yukon Minister of Economic Development), Hon. Scott Kent (Yukon Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources), Hon. David Ramsay (NWT Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment), Okenge Yuma Morisho (BC Assistant Deputy Minister Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training), Donavon Young (Alberta Deputy Minister Aboriginal Relations), Victoria Jurgens (Saskatchewan Legislative Secretary Ministry of Government Relations), Robert Wavey (Manitoba Deputy Minister Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs), Christine Kaszycki (Ontario Assistant Deputy Minister Ministry of Northern Development and Mines), Robert Sauvé (President and Chief Officer Société du Plan Nord), Aubrey Gover (Deputy Minister Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office), Dionne Saville (Regional Director General, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada).

Supporting Minister Eil from the Government of Nunavut: Pauloosie Suvega (Deputy Minister), Eric Doiron (Manager Business Development and Christopher Scullion (Executive Assistant).

Nunavut Positions:

Benefit Agreements Project (Phase 1)

Mr. Andrew Buchel, Senior Research Manager, PRA Inc. provided a background and a report on Benefit Agreements which are typically contractual agreements between industry proponents who are looking to have sustainability and security about investments in resource development and profitable business activity and Aboriginal communities that are interested in getting benefits from having these investment opportunities taking place on or near their communities. Opening remarks were provided by MLA Victoria Jurgens, Legislative Secretary for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations the lead jurisdiction on the project. A second phase to this project is expected to be delivered during the next Forum in Iqaluit and it will explore the objective realized benefits over time, the role governments could potentially play in supporting Benefit Agreements, the negotiation process for Benefit Agreements and implementation process. The report of Phase 1 of this project was accepted and Nunavut supported the continuation of the Benefit Agreement Project II.

Innovating Development Project

Helen Booth, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Economic Development, Yukon presented the report on the Innovating Development Project. Four broad categories were proposed for examination: infrastructure, financing, community development, policy or legislation. After review of the submitted projects, it was indicated that challenges faced were common across the North and were even more basic than the categories were proposed. They were all rooted in the most basic issues:

- Overcoming distance
- Producing energy
- The vast landscapes
- Making connections across the North

Projects submitted demonstrated are examples of partnership and collaboration, and they've shown that the North can keep up and thrive, despite its unique considerations. The Government of Nunavut supported a motion by *the Honourable Scott Kent, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Yukon and Acting Chair* to accept the report on Innovating Development as presented.

Managing Change Project

Steve Rose, Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations/ Economic Development, Yukon facilitated a panel discussion. The panel discussed the impacts that large-scale natural resource developments have on Canada's North and examined the frameworks and processes that are required to positively manage these changes. By examining the impacts these large projects have on northern regions, using a lessons-learned approach, it was hoped the information would assist regions to better prepare for development.

It was recommended that the SOWG finalize the project as it has fulfilled its mandate;

1. Post the presentations and supplement on the NDMF public site upon ratification by Ministers; and
2. Each NDMF member distributes the material from the project to relevant departments and agencies.

All Ministers present at the Forum including Nunavut accepted the recommendations.

Meeting Outcomes/Current situation:

Following the cancellation of the September 16 – 18, 2014 NDMF in Whitehorse, due to a lack of quorum, the Terms of Reference were renegotiated and a planning document was developed with the purpose of making future Forums more valuable, engaging and outcomes oriented. Proposed changes to the Terms of Reference were presented to the Ministers. The Ministers approved the changes to the NDMF 2015 Terms of Reference as presented by SOWG. Minister Kent outlined the process for Priority Projects in years past, but due to the changes to the Terms of Reference, a more inclusive process has been developed that combines the established approach with a broader discussion among the Forum, based on general interests with the conclusion that the projects can be supported by the traditional research paper but also through a presentation, a panel

or an experience at the next Forum. There was a consensus that the NDMF continue with Nunavut hosting the next Forum in 2016. Priorities that were identified include:

New Priority Projects:

- Manitoba: “Northern Food Security” Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
 - Recommendation to include consideration of the federal Nutrition North program and how its subsidies affect local food producers.
- Alberta and Québec: “Strengthening Working Relationships between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Governments When Considering Northern Development”
 - Suggestion that it also be examined through the lens of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s report.
- Saskatchewan: continued work on the Benefit Agreements Project phase II

There were many comments on the value of the Forum, such as: the importance of meeting together to discuss the unique challenges that face the northern regions, as the only FPT meeting that focuses solely on northern issues, it is important that it continues.

Next Steps:

- Honourable Monica Eil, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Nunavut confirmed Nunavut’s intention to host the NDMF in 2016.
- The theme for the 2016 NDMF is “Northern Development: A Land of Opportunities.”

Attachments: Agenda
 Press Release
 Summary of Proceeding

FPT Ministerial Report to the Legislative Assembly