Ministerial Meeting Report
Nunavut Legislative Assembly

Date: December 9, 2016

Title: First Ministers Meeting, Climate Change

Originating Department: Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Participants: Premier Peter Taptuna

Issue:

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau held a First Ministers Meeting (FMM) to finalize the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*.

Background:

FMM is a meeting of the provincial and territorial premiers and the Prime Minster. This is the third FMM that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has held. The first was on November 23, 2015, in Ottawa and the second was March 3, 2016.

In addition to premiers, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also invited the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Metis National Council, along with regional indigenous representation from the provinces and territories for the morning session of the meeting. James Eetoolook, Acting President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., and Stanley Anablak, President of Kitikmeot Inuit Association, attended as regional indigenous representatives from Nunavut. The second session of the meeting was a discussion between the First Ministers only.

Summary of the Meeting:

First Ministers successfully finalized the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*. With the exception of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, all jurisdictions signed onto the framework.

The *Framework* is intended to build on actions of provincial and territorial governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and to identify areas of opportunity for clean growth.

The *Framework* outlines critical actions that governments will take to grow the economy while reducing GHG emissions. These actions include:

• Developing new building codes to ensure that buildings use less energy, which over time will save money for households and businesses.

• Deploying more electric charging stations to support zero-emitting vehicles.

• Expanding clean electricity systems, promoting inter-ties, using smart-grid technologies to phase out the reliance on coal, as well as making more efficient use of existing power supplies, and ensuring a greater use of renewable energy.

• Reducing methane emission from the oil and gas sector.

• Protecting and enhancing carbon stored in forested lands, wetlands and agricultural lands.

• Setting an example for the public and driving significant reductions in emissions from government operations.

First Ministers also agreed to take action to adapt to the changing climate and to build climate resilience, recognizing that coastal, northern and indigenous communities face unique circumstances. In support of these efforts, the federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, will be making investments in green infrastructure, public transit, and clean technology and innovation. This will include helping indigenous peoples and remote and northern communities reduce their reliance on diesel by connecting these communities to electricity grids and implementing renewable energy systems.

First Ministers agreed to receive a report back on the progress of implementation within one year, and annually thereafter. Further, federal, provincial and territorial governments will work together to establish a review of carbon pricing, which will be completed by early 2022. An interim report will be completed in 2020, which will be reviewed and assessed by First Ministers.

First Ministers also agreed to each jurisdiction's annex to the *Framework*. Nunavut's annex recognizes key actions taken to date (or those that are under development) by Nunavut to reduce GHGs and mitigate the effects of climate change. Nunavut's annex also recognizes Nunavut's unique circumstances and commits the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut to work together to assess the implications of carbon pricing in the territory for its economy, communities and people, including energy costs, and to develop solutions together.

Further, Nunavut's annex states that to address climate change and advance clean growth, the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada intend to collaborate in the following domains of priority:

- An assessment of the economic and technical feasibility of electrification through hybrid power generation in Nunavut's communities. Hybrid power generation would significantly reduce emissions while at the same time ensure that Nunavut's isolated communities have reliable power.
- The development of a retrofit program to increase the energy efficiency of public and private housing. Investment in safe and energy efficient housing is a key component of building strong resilient communities in the Arctic.

The Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada will also work together to assess the implications of carbon pricing in Canada on the cost of living in Nunavut. This will be an important consideration for future policy development.

As outlined in the federal government's benchmark, 100 per cent of the revenues from carbon pricing will be retained by Nunavut.

Next Steps:

The Government of Nunavut will work with the Government of Canada on an implementation strategy for the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*.

A First Ministers Meeting will be held within one year to assess the progress of the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*.

Attachments:

Nunavut's annex to the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change

Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change:
https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/pan-canadian-framework.html

Prime Minister's communiqué on the Dec 9 FMM
http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2016/12/09/communique-canadas-first-ministers

Nunavut's Annex

Key actions to date

Some of the key actions taken to date or under development in Nunavut include:

Energy efficiency upgrades

The Nunavut Energy Retrofit Program was piloted in Iqaluit in 2007, and addressed all of the government of Nunavut's Iqaluit Government of Nunavut-owned buildings. The one-time project investment of $12.8 million has led to annual savings in excess of $1.6 million and 1,594 tonnes of GHG reductions.

In combination with the conversion of three of our facilities to residual heat, our GHG reduction is approximately 4,100 tonnes, which is roughly 20% of those buildings' total emissions.

Development of a Climate Change and Adaptation strategy

Upagiaqtavut was developed in 2011 and serves as a guiding document for the impacts of climate change in Nunavut

Climate change databank

The Government of Nunavut is developing and uses information technology to centralize and increase the access to climate change information, such as permafrost data and landscape hazards maps. The information is used to improve infrastructure planning and help mitigate the effects of climate change across Nunavut.

Climate Change Secretariat

The Government of Nunavut is establishing a Climate Change Secretariat (CCS), which will be the central point within the government to address both climate change adaptation and mitigation issues.

Action on pricing carbon pollution

The Government of Nunavut recognizes the role of carbon pricing in the pan-Canadian Framework for Clean Growth and Climate Change. Given Nunavut's particular circumstances, the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut will work together to assess the implications of carbon pricing in the territory for its economy, communities and people including energy costs, and to develop solutions together.

The Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada will also work together to assess the implications of carbon pricing in Canada on the cost of living in Nunavut. This will be an important consideration for future policy development.

As outlined in the federal government's benchmark, 100% of the revenues from carbon pricing will be retained by Nunavut.

Collaboration partnership opportunities for clean growth and climate change

Nunavut and the Government of Canada intend to collaborate in the following domains of priority to address climate change and advance clean growth:

Nunavut and the Government of Canada will assess the economic and technical feasibility of electrification through hybrid power generation in Nunavut’s communities. Hybrid power generation would significantly reduce emissions while at the same time ensure that Nunavut’s isolated communities have reliable power.

Nunavut and the Government of Canada will work together to develop a retrofit program to increase the energy efficiency of public and private housing. Investment in safe and energy efficient housing is a key component of building strong resilient communities in the Arctic.