Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries
Ambassador David Bolton,
Arctic Council Secretariat
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Nordic Council of Ministers' report to the Arctic Council 2016

Dear Ambassador Bolton,

I would like to thank you, your team and Special Representative Admiral Papp for taking the time to see me during my trip to Washington D.C. in February 2016. It benefitted to the overall picture of the network, partnership and friendship between the Nordic countries, in the shape of the Nordic Council of Ministers, and the Arctic Council and partners in the USA in general.

We hereby submit the observer report for the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) requested by the American chairmanship of the Arctic Council through the Arctic Council Secretariat.

The observer report of the NCM is quite obvious; however, I would like to highlight a couple of things.

Firstly, in terms of financial support the NCM has contributed with 7,540,000 DKK approximately 1,135,269 USD to the Arctic Council in the 5 year period of 2012-2016. This indeed speaks for itself; however, this number is purely allocated from the Arctic Cooperation Program of the NCM. Besides the Arctic Cooperation Program the other Minister Council of the NCM, and in particular the Minister Council of Environment, also contribute and support the work of the Arctic Council and in the Arctic in general.

Secondly, the NCM also implements projects and initiatives of own nature and we are particularly happy to profile the range of publications that contribute to the knowledge and research of the Arctic. I am hopeful that you and your team will study and share these as broadly as possible via our app for the purpose: Nordpub.

Thirdly, we are keen to continue and strengthen our partnership with you and other Arctic stakeholders on outreach and knowledge sharing on the Arctic. The USA and the NCM had a successful joint outreach event in Copenhagen in May 2015 that gave the USA opportunity to showcase priorities of the Arctic Council chairmanship program and gave us possibility to showcase Nordic value added in the Arctic while at the same time building bridges between us.
On this basis, I wish you a good and productive last year of your chairmanship of the Arctic Council and take the opportunity to express sincere hope and wishes for a continuous good cooperation between us.

Sincerely,

Dagfinn Høybråten
Secretary General
Nordic Council of Ministers