



SAO2001/B/14.5.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ALBERTA DECLARATION

**Of The
Fifth General Assembly
Of
The Northern Forum**

**Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
October 29, 2001**

Mission or Philosophy

It is the Mission or Philosophy of The Northern Forum:

To improve the quality of life of Northern peoples by providing Northern regional leaders a means to share their knowledge and experience in addressing common opportunities and challenges; and

To support sustainable development and the implementation of cooperative socio-economic initiatives among Northern regions.

Background

At the kind invitation of Premier Klein of the Province of Alberta, Canada, the Fifth General Assembly of The Northern Forum was conducted in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on October 29 - 31, 2001. Sixteen members of the Board of Governors were represented at the General Assembly, along with numerous advisors, guests, and observers. The members of the Board of Governors reviewed past initiatives, while looking to the future in terms of the organization's objectives.

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THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS NOTED, with appreciation, the work of The Northern Forum members regarding the advancement of international cooperation on northern issues, the work of Member Regions on northern-based initiatives; and the efforts to enhance the profile of the organization.

WITH GREAT PLEASURE, THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS WELCOMED THE FOLLOWING NEW REGIONAL MEMBERS OF THE NORTHERN FORUM: CHUKOTKA AUTONOMOUS OKRUG AND VOLOGDA OBLAST'. THE BOARD ALSO WELCOMED NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS TAIGA TRADING COMPANY, FORTUM OIL AND GAS OY, KOMETOS OY AND OAO ZVEZDA ENERGETIKA.

BE IT DECLARED, that as a result of the meeting of the General Assembly of The Northern Forum in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, the members of the Board of Governors of The Northern Forum, representing regional governments throughout the northern world, publicly rededicate themselves and their organization, The Northern Forum, to the purpose and principles developed at the four **Northern Regions Conferences**, and to the principles, themes and initiatives found in the **Northern Forum Declarations** made in **Tromsø, Hokkaido, Yakutsk and Rovaniemi**.

Recognizing The Need To Advance The World's Northern Regions

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED, that the members of the Board of Governors of The Northern Forum publicly recognize:

- The necessity to advance northern economies, improve the capacity of Northern Regions to realize socio-economic opportunities, and address challenges, in a proactive manner, to enhance the quality of life in Northern Regions;
- The desire to advance economic development in a sustainable manner;
- The objective to ensure efforts are made to advance Indigenous participation in northern economies through skill development, and fostering entrepreneurship and partnerships with other northern stakeholders; while addressing health, education and community well-being;

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- The special responsibility to maintain and enhance the unique cultures, economies and ways of life of residents of the Northern Regions; and
- The members' objective to enhance the profile and operations of The Northern Forum, to expand its membership base, and to continue to make the Northern Forum a multilateral "Voice for the Northern Regions."

Commitment To Current Activities

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED, that the members of the Board of Governors of The Northern Forum publicly commit themselves and their organization:

- To the organization's mission, philosophy and past Declarations, as adopted by the Board of Governors;
- To continue to work with other international and commercial entities that show interests in the advancement of the North or the Northern Regions for the advancement of the northern regions; and
- To the development of a long-term business plan that will address the sustained financial viability of The Northern Forum, as well as its management framework and organizational priorities.

The Northern Forum - Looking To The Future

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED, that the members of the Board of Governors of The Northern Forum publicly undertake to consider the following directions for the future activities of The Northern Forum, based upon a spirit of international good will, communication and cooperation:

1. ***Sustainable Economic and Tourism Development:*** To develop partnerships that will advance northern economic and tourism development in a sustainable manner, including: the organization of northern business leaders' meetings as part of future General Assemblies of The Northern Forum; foster relationships between international northern tourism interests to promote northern tourism and build the economic capacities of northern communities through the exchange of ideas, concepts and cooperative measures;
2. ***Learning and Skill Development:*** To reinvigorate an initiative to connect all educational institutions located in the Northern Regions, to encourage skill

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development for Northern residents. This initiative will enable Northern residents to live and learn in their Northern Regions, and will also advance skill development in such a manner that Northerners, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, will have the skills necessary to participate in northern economies;

3. ***Indigenous Participation in Northern Economies:*** To share and exchange information on “best practices” in relation to advancing Indigenous participation in northern economies through a coordinated network centered on the Secretariat of The Northern Forum;
4. ***Northern Regional Summits:*** To support, under the auspices of The Northern Forum, meetings on strategic topics which would provide specific expert guidance for the implementation of projects and for addressing issues of common concern to the leaders of the Northern Regions;
5. ***Profile and Membership:*** To enhance the profile of, and membership in, The Northern Forum, through contact with non-member Northern Regions, northern business associations and other groups with interests in the world’s Northern Regions;
6. ***Relationship with the Arctic Council:*** To enhance and strengthen, in order to make more effective, The Northern Forum’s relations with the Arctic Council through communication and cooperation;
7. ***Globalization:*** To take under consideration the growth of globalization processes in societal development, which will entail the accelerated use of natural and human resources in industrial development. The members of the Board of Governors of The Northern Forum will make every possible effort and use every opportunity to respect the environment and ensure the rational use of the natural riches of the North; and
8. ***The Date and Place of the Sixth General Assembly of The Northern Forum:*** The Governors accept the kind invitation of Saint Petersburg to hold the sixth General Assembly of The Northern Forum in Saint Petersburg, Russia, in 2003.