

Memorandum of Intent

between

Government of Nunavut (GN)

and

Government of Manitoba (GM)

On

Northern Energy Strategy

Whereas,

- Manitoba and Nunavut share a common border, and have established a close transportation, trading and cultural relationship in the last 25 years, including resupply of the Kivalliq Region through the Northern Churchill Gateway;
- Nunavut has expressed a desire for a transmission link to the Canadian electrical grid through the Province of Manitoba, and Manitoba is supportive of these aspirations;
- The Premiers of Manitoba and Nunavut signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Cooperation and Development in February 2000 for future joint cooperative arrangements;
- On 19/June/2001 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Manitoba Hydro and the Nunavut Power Corporation respecting cooperation between the utilities in undertaking studies related to the construction, operation and maintenance of energy supply systems;
- Northern Manitoba and Kivalliq Mayors signed a MOU (2001) identifying energy as 1 of 4 priorities;
- The Churchill-Fox Lake-Gillam-Kivalliq Regional Round Table in January 2002 identified energy as 1 of 5 priorities, and
- Discussions and agreement to pursue cooperative arrangements in energy including an MOU, took place between GN Minister Picco and GM Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Deputy Premier) and GM Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs in Iqaluit, November 2001.

Therefore, Manitoba and Nunavut hereby undertake to establish a Memorandum of Intent on Northern Energy Strategies.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Intent is to Improve cooperation and consultation, and investigate the potential for joint Northern Energy Strategies and planning matters of mutual concern to Manitoba and Nunavut.

2. Principles

The following principles, to the extent applicable, will apply to initiatives undertaken through this MOI.

Initiatives will:

- a) improve the coordination of existing and new energy supply opportunities for both jurisdictions;
- b) support and develop renewable energy strategies and technologies;
- c) enhance electrical transmission and energy transportation infrastructures and services between the two jurisdictions;
- d) support and enhance the efficiency of energy use;
- e) recognize and incorporate principles and guidelines relating to sustainable development including community consultations;
- f) respond to evolving Manitoba and Nunavut circumstances;
- g) respect Nunavut Land Claim obligations and interests, including the Nunavut Final Agreement; and
- h) respect Manitoba First Nations land claims entitlements and the land claims entitlement process.

3. Joint Actions

The following joint actions are proposed to be undertaken.

- a) The participants will jointly develop the terms of reference for a pre-feasibility selection study of hydro resources in the Kivalliq area.
- b) The participants will jointly develop the terms of reference for a feasibility study of a transmission link connecting potential hydro resources and communities in the Kivalliq and Manitoba. The terms of reference will assess the potential cost of this study and determine the source of funding.
- c) The participants will explore and undertake cooperative efforts, where mutually beneficial, in energy planning and policy research and development matters, including common representation to the federal government where appropriate.

Projects 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.

4. Amendment and Termination

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

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

5. Coordination and Implementation

A Manitoba-Nunavut Energy Strategy 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 acknowledge the intentions of the parties to pursue mutually beneficial initiatives.

This Memorandum of Intent is signed on this 26 day of April 2002.

Original Signed By

The Honourable Ed Picco
Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Power
Corporation

Original Signed By

The Honourable Jean Friesen
Minister, Intergovernmental Affairs