

Memorandum of Understanding on the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction

BACKGROUND

On October 18, 2010, the Government of Nunavut, together with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., launched a public engagement initiative for poverty reduction.

During the following year, the government (through the Anti-Poverty Secretariat at the Department of Economic Development & Transportation) and NTI held regular monthly meetings to inform interested organizations and individuals about progress on the poverty reduction initiative, and receive their advice. These meetings were convened as the “Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction.”

The public engagement for poverty reduction process was completed at the Poverty Summit in Iqaluit, November 28-30, 2011, co-chaired by Premier Aariak and NTI Vice-President Jack Anawak.

Participants at the Summit drafted *The Makimaniq Plan: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction*. The plan states:

Participants in the Poverty Summit have agreed that the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, representative of all parties with a role to play in poverty reduction, will provide leadership and oversight for *The Makimaniq Plan*. (p. 9)

Responsibility for drafting terms of reference for the Roundtable was assigned in the Plan to a transition team established by the government and NTI. This team prepared the MOU for the Roundtable.

The MOU lists the purposes of the Roundtable:

- To provide leadership and oversight for implementation of *The Makimaniq Plan*, and support collaboration and innovation on the issues identified in the Plan;
- To extend *The Makimaniq Plan* by preparing a long-term (five-year) poverty reduction action plan for Nunavut and ensure full public participation in the planning and implementation of poverty reduction measures; and,
- To support community driven initiatives and the initiatives of local networks of community organizations engaged in poverty reduction.

The MOU also provides:

- That the Premier and the President will convene a meeting of the Roundtable at least semi-annually.
- That the minister responsible for poverty reduction, for the government, and the vice president responsible for the Nunavut Social Development Council, for NTI, will participate in the Roundtable.
- That membership will be open to other organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations and businesses that wish to contribute to the fulfillment of *The Makimaniq Plan*.
- That membership in the Roundtable will ensure regional diversity and include a balance of genders, elders, youth and persons with personal experience of poverty.

The MOU responds to the government’s obligation under Article 32 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement to collaborate with Inuit on the development of social and cultural policies, programs and services intended to reduce poverty.

Work on the implementation of *The Makimaniq Plan* has proceeded since the Poverty Summit. The principal collaborative project between the government and Inuit organizations has been the creation of the Nunavut Food Security Coalition, for the preparation of a food security strategy for the territory.