Preamble

Recognizing the Arctic’s great resource wealth, the increasing global demand for the Arctic’s resources, the impact of climate change and other environmental pressures, and the need to address challenges facing the Arctic;

Mindful of the core rights of Inuit as recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as provided for in a variety of other legal and political instruments and mechanisms, including Inuit regional self-government legislation, land claims agreements (treaties), and self-government, international governance and cooperation, and national and regional developments, and as asserted in A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic;

Respecting the ingenuity, resilience and wisdom of previous generations of Inuit, the right of Inuit to have access to their traditional knowledge and cultural heritage and to maintain and develop their dynamic Inuit culture;

Recognizing the right of Inuit to self-determination, the need for decisions to be made in concert with the Inuit of the region, and the requirement that all decisions respect and promote the well-being of Inuit;

We, the Inuit of Inuit Nunaat, declare:

We, the Inuit of Inuit Nunaat, declare that the development of resources in Inuit Nunaat must be grounded in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

1.2. 1.2 We, the Inuit of Inuit Nunaat, declare that the development of resources in Inuit Nunaat must be grounded in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

2. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples


2.2. The UN Declaration identifies the right of Inuit peoples to self-determination, the right to their lands, to be protected in all their forms and by all means and to the fullest extent, and the right to traditional knowledge; and this must be respected and strengthened.

2.3 The right of Inuit peoples to determine, including their right to self-determination, may be expressed in any form and in all its aspects in national and international governance structures that combine both a healthy environment and a healthy economy.

2.4. Private sector resource developers, and governments and public bodies charged with the public management of resource development, must all conduct themselves in concert with the requirements of the United Nations Declaration.

3. A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic

3.1 Resource development in Inuit Nunaat must respect and bolster the Inuit Nunaat Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic, adapted by the Inuit Circumpolar Council in April 2009.

3.2 A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic identified many principles that are relevant to resource development in Inuit Nunaat, including:

3.3 Respect for, and reliance on, the recognition of the rights of Inuit as Arctic indigenous people under both international and domestic law.

4. Inuit as Partners in Policy-Making and Decision Making

4.1 Central to a Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic is the requirement that Inuit must be active and equal partners in policy-making and decision-making affecting Inuit Nunaat.

4.2 Partnerships with Inuit in relation to resource development must include significant and different characteristics depending on the circumstances, but the spirit and substance of partnership must be extended to both public sector governance and private sector partnerships.

4.3 Partnerships must include the meaningful engagement and active participation of Inuit in local communities who are most directly affected by resource development in Inuit Nunaat.

4.4 Partnerships must be developed upon a genuine capacity and aspirations of Inuit businesses and enterprises through use of vehicles such as joint venture and co-ownership, including facilitating equity participation, and the issuance of Inuit ownership in land and mineral rights through licences, leases and similar instruments.

4.5 Inuit recognize the need within Inuit Nunaat to develop Inuit business enterprises and Indigenous community development consortia to ensure approval of major resource development projects in Inuit Nunaat, with major economic and environmental implications for Inuit. Partnerships that set out ground rules for development applicable to specific projects, and that refrain from impact assessment processes to gauge the likely impacts of specific projects.

6. Healthy Communities in a Healthy Environment

6.1 The physical and mental health of human communities and individuals cannot be separated from the health and well-being of the environment.

6.2 Inuit Nunaat resource development proposals for Inuit Nunaat must be assessed holistically, placing human needs at the centre.

6.3. Resource development in Inuit Nunaat must promote the physical and mental health of communities and individuals within and across Inuit Nunaat.

6.4 Resource development must enhance, not detract from, the environment.

6.5 In a contemporary context, healthy community and economic development must go hand in hand.

7. Economic Self-Sufficiency and the Inuit Nunaat Development Fund

7.1 Inuit seek to make use of the economic opportunities available through long-term development of the resources of Inuit Nunaat.

7.2 Resource development in Inuit Nunaat must be sustainable. It must serve the needs of Inuit today without compromising the ability of Inuit to meet their needs of tomorrow. The proportion of a resource development project must meet the demands of demonstrating that the proposed development is sustainable.

7.3 In determining the sustainability of a resource development initiative, the best available scientific and Inuit knowledge and standards must be fully taken into account.

7.4 International standard-setting bodies must work and seek to adopt standards and practices from Inuit. National, regional and local bodies, including Inuit, should be involved in the development of these standards and overall well-being, and (4) contribute to the health and stability of institutions and mechanisms of Inuit Nunaat.

8.1.6.1  A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic recognizes the right to life, and as such, the right to liberty and security of person.

8.2.5.1  Inuit seek to make use of the economic opportunities available through long-term development of the resources of Inuit Nunaat.

9. Improving Inuit Living Standards and Expanding Inuit Economic Development

9.1 Inuit expect that new resource development proposals for Inuit Nunaat will result in the creation, or the strengthening of, employment, training, education, health care and social service opportunities and facilities.

9.2.4.5.1  Access to clean, safe, and affordable drinking water is recognized as a human right.

9.3.7.5.1  A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic recognizes the right to life, and as such, the right to liberty and security of person.

9.4.8.5.1  A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic recognizes the right to life, and as such, the right to liberty and security of person.

9.5.9.5.1  A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic recognizes the right to life, and as such, the right to liberty and security of person.

9.6.10.5.1  A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic recognizes the right to life, and as such, the right to liberty and security of person.

9.7.11.5.1  A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic recognizes the right to life, and as such, the right to liberty and security of person.

9.8.12.5.1  A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic recognizes the right to life, and as such, the right to liberty and security of person.