

THE NORTHERN FORUM
Resolution #16

On the occasion of the First Northern Forum Conference, and an examination of sustainable development opportunities facing members in common, the members find:

Petroleum will remain a major, necessary part of the world's energy supply until alternative fuels can be economically developed,

Exploration opportunities on some areas of greatest potential production in member regions may be eliminated by proposals to designate these areas off-limits to industrial activity, even before full inventories of oil, gas, and mineral potential are made,

Northern energy exploration development and mining has occurred safely, with benefits to northern residents and protection of the environment, and many examples are available throughout member regions for study,

Appropriate precautions are available to protect populations of northern wildlife species, along with the cultures and lifestyles of people who depend on these living resources,

Northern regions are in need of development opportunities which will provide revenues to meet other basic needs, including better health facilities, transportation infrastructure, sanitation, and electric power development,

Worldwide, efforts are underway to develop alternative means of energy production, or new forms of energy that present less environmental and economic risk, and northern regions have special needs and opportunities in this area as well,

Regional governments need to increase recognition of the importance of the north to the economies and well-being to all host nations, in order to encourage further sustainable development.

THUS, WE HEREBY RESOLVE TO

Work with each other to support safe exploration and development of energy and minerals in areas with potential that are not now set aside for wilderness protection,

Exchange information on environmental protection technologies, laws and practices, as well as emergency prevention and response through existing Northern Forum projects,

Further exchange information relating to experiences of member regions in developing resource management and revenue sharing practices that are responsible both to the needs of the marketplace and to the needs of regions which host energy and mineral development,

Encourage, individually, national governments and industries to make the best use of existing infrastructure to extend energy developments in frontier areas,

And further encourage the development of technologies to provide cleaner energy in the north, as well as around the world.

Signed this day of October 3, 1993