

**The Northern Forum
Executive Committee**

Resolution # 086

Concerning a Circumpolar Infrastructure Task Force

WHEREAS, since its inception the Northern Forum has through region-to-region cooperation and projects concerning sustainable economic development worked to improve East-West air routes, shipping on Northern Seas, telecommunication, and infrastructure finance in the North; and

WHEREAS, increased nation-to-nation cooperation on these issues, with the participation of Northern Forum members and leaders in commerce, will supplement regional dialogue, and has the potential to identify opportunities for enhancement of sustainable infrastructure in the North; and

WHEREAS, a September 11-12, 2000 workshop held at the Institute of the North at Alaska Pacific University, with the support of the Northern Forum Secretariat, the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, the State of Alaska, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and invited industry leaders and experts from Russia and Japan, reported on other activities in this area held in Northern Forum regions, and refined a proposal for a Circumpolar Infrastructure Task Force (CITF) to be conducted as an activity of the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council; and

WHEREAS, the CITF is not expected to conduct engineering or feasibility studies, but will instead convene experts to advise on opportunities for cooperation which policy-makers may use to commission further study and action; and

WHEREAS, the national governments of Finland, Russia, Canada and Norway have expressed interest in Arctic Council efforts to foster cooperation on infrastructure, and Task Force members anticipate working cooperatively; and

WHEREAS, participation in this activity by members of the Northern Forum may allow additional information to be gained from regional government planning efforts, allow regional priorities to be considered, and may encourage the expanded participation of regions from nations outside the eight Arctic nations, including Heilongjiang, Hokkaido, Dornod and the Republic of Korea, which nevertheless rely on Arctic infrastructure for their own economic activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on behalf of the Board of Directors, by the Executive Committee of the Northern Forum:

- 1) that a CITF proposal now pending before the Arctic Council has our support;

- 2) that the CITF is an endorsed project of the Northern Forum, on the understandings that a Task Force Secretariat will be funded by and through the Institute of the North, and that participating Northern Forum members will fund their own participation or receive grant funds procured by the Institute of the North for travel;
- 3) that the CITF will coordinate its efforts with the Northern Forum Academy;
- 4) that the CITF is asked to report to the Northern Forum General Assembly in Alberta in September 2001 on opportunities it identifies for greater region-to-region cooperation in transportation, telecommunication and infrastructure finance; and
- 5) that copies of this resolution will be sent to the Chairman of the Arctic Council and Senior Arctic Officials of the eight Arctic nations.

Approved this 27th day of March 2001 in Moscow, the Russian Federation.