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**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**  
**Between the City of Yellowknife, the City of Whitehorse, and**  
**the City of Iqaluit**  
**Regarding Arctic Security and NORAD/CAF/DND Investments**  
**in Northern Municipalities**

**Date:** February 24, 2026

**Parties:**

**Mayor,** City of Yellowknife

**Mayor,** City of Whitehorse

**Mayor,** City of Iqaluit

**1. Purpose**

The Cities of Yellowknife, Whitehorse, and Iqaluit share a common interest of strengthening infrastructure resilience, modernizing critical systems, and fostering local capacity to support the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), and the Department of National Defence (DND) in their respective communities.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a collaborative framework for the three capital cities to jointly advocate for strategic and coordinated investment in infrastructure, services, and community resilience to support defence operations while safeguarding the quality of life for northern residents.



## 2. Objectives

The Parties agree to work together to:

### **Invest in Northern Resilience and Core Infrastructure**

The Parties call on the Government of Canada to prioritize sustained investment in climate-resilient, dual-use infrastructure across Yellowknife, Whitehorse, and Iqaluit. These investments should strengthen both defence and civilian capacity — including municipal core systems such as water, wastewater, solid waste, housing, transportation, communications, energy, and large community facilities — to ensure northern communities remain secure, livable, and operationally ready in support of Canada’s Arctic sovereignty and national security objectives.

### **Strengthen Federal-Municipal Collaboration in Arctic Planning and Operations**

The Parties call on the Government of Canada to deepen collaboration with the northern capital cities in advancing Arctic sovereignty, defence readiness, and operational planning. This includes embedding municipal perspectives in national security, infrastructure, and investment decisions; ensuring early engagement on CAF and NORAD activities; and aligning municipal capacity and growth planning with federal priorities for northern development and resilience.

### **Provide Structured Partnership and Capacity Support for Northern Municipalities**

The Parties urge the Government of Canada to establish a structured, ongoing framework for collaboration and capacity support with the northern capitals. This includes providing predictable funding and technical assistance to enable effective municipal readiness in Arctic security initiatives, infrastructure, housing and workforce planning, and the sharing of data, research, and best practices to advance economic opportunity and community resilience.



### 3. Principles of Collaboration

The Parties share:

- **Mutual Respect and Trust:** Recognizing the unique strengths and strategic value of each municipality.
- **Transparency:** Sharing relevant information and updates in a timely and open manner.
- **Coordination:** Aligning advocacy efforts to present a unified northern voice.
- **Community Engagement:** Ensuring local stakeholders are informed, represented, and involved.
- **Shared Prosperity:** Promoting economic development and job creation that benefits all three communities.

### 4. Inuit, First Nations and Métis Participation and Engagement

The Parties recognize the significance of Inuit, First Nations and Métis participation in northern planning and development. Each Party will engage with relevant Inuit, First Nations and Métis governments and groups, as required and consistent with best practices in their respective territories, to inform initiatives undertaken within the scope of this MOU.

### 5. Intergovernmental Coordination and Capacity Support

The Parties jointly call on:

- **The Government of Canada and its departments**, including DND;
- **The Canadian Armed Forces;**
- **The North American Aerospace Defense Command;**
- **The Government of the Northwest Territories, the Government of Yukon, and the Government of Nunavut**, and their respective departments;



To coordinate and collaborate in the planning and implementation of Arctic sovereignty and security initiatives, and to provide capacity funding to the Cities of Yellowknife, Whitehorse, and Iqaluit to enable meaningful participation in these efforts, including planning, engagement, and infrastructure readiness.

## **6. Governance and Communication**

- The mayors will meet regularly, or as needed, to review progress and coordinate actions.
- Designated staff or representatives from each municipality will support implementation.
- Any joint communications and advocacy materials will be developed and approved by all Parties.

## **7. General**

- This MOU will remain in effect for a period of three (3) years from the date of signing, unless terminated earlier by mutual agreement. It may be reviewed annually, amended as needed by mutual consent of the parties, and renewed as necessary.
- This MOU does not create any rights or legal obligations between the Parties.
- The Parties agree that this MOU does not prohibit a Party from independently communicating with, and advocating to, the Government of Canada, Territorial Governments, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis governments and development corporations, in relation to the subject matter of this MOU.



**8. Signatures**

**Mayor Ben Hendriksen**

City of Yellowknife

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mayor Kirk Cameron**

City of Whitehorse

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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City of Iqaluit

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_