

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
10TH ASSEMBLY, 8TH SESSION**

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TABLED ON OCTOBER 24, 1986

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THE PRINCIPLES REGARDING
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT
WHICH THE WCF IS OFFERING
TO THE INUVIALUIT

October 24, 1986

1. Right to Form Regional Government

Within a constitution of a western territory, community governments will have the right to form a regional government. Subject to the following principles, the central government will be obliged to recognize and accept regional governments so formed.

2. Membership

The method of decision among and within communities whether the communities desire to form a regional government, as well as a method of establishing regional government the number of consenting communities required, and the terms upon which a community may exercise its right to withdraw its membership have yet to be determined. The structure and accountability of the regional government will be determined by member communities in accordance with democratic principles.

3. Funding

Funding for any regional government will be fair and adequate. In particular a regional government will be assured that insofar as it assumes duties previously held by other governments, it takes over the funding previously available to those other governments.

4. Mandate

The Inuvialuit and the other members of the WCF support regional governments obtaining from the other levels of government: shared responsibility, management and control over certain programs and services, including aspects of education, economic development, local government relations, police services, game management, land use planning and management and of the powers to tax by way of property taxation, business taxes and license fees and amusement taxes.

The WCF does not at present support legislative authority for a regional government in these areas, but the WCF agreed that the community and central governments should be empowered to delegate such authority.

5. Boundaries

Regional government boundaries may describe such a geographic region as is appropriate to the community composition of the regional government at any point in time. Boundaries would be established for administrative purposes only and would alter as individual communities join or withdraw from a regional government from time to time.

6. Official Languages

Official working languages of a regional government will include the regional aboriginal languages or languages, and English.

7. Rights to Participate

Every resident of the region shall have an equal right to participate in the regional government and to benefit from its programs and services. For members of different cultural groups, programs and services and the manner of participating in government need not be identical.

8. Public Lands and Resources

Public lands within regional government boundaries and outside community boundaries should be held by a central level of government.

Provincial authority over the management of sub-surface resources, onshore and offshore, should be exercised in a manner which reflects the needs and interests of all residents in the province. The regional land interests may be considered formally in land use planning and management.

NOTE: The provisional principles described above have been advanced solely in the context of negotiations towards agreement on a boundary for division by October 22, 1986. If an agreement is not reached, the WCF will not be bound by these principles.

THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES
THE WCF IS COMMITTED TO ADDRESSING
IN ITS CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSAL

October 24, 1986

- A) The overriding objective of a new constitution is to build a system of public government which will protect the individual rights of all of its citizens and the collective rights of its aboriginal peoples, and whose overarching principles is one of bringing peoples together.
- B) To accomplish this objective a new constitution must balance two principles,
- i) The protection of individuals in that each and every bona fide resident of the western jurisdiction should have the right to participate in and benefit from public institutions, programs and services according to basic democratic principles guaranteed in the constitution, and
 - ii) The protection of the Dene, Metis and Inuvialuit in that each aboriginal community in the western jurisdiction shall be explicitly recognized in the constitution and mechanisms shall be entrenched to enable each community to flourish as a distinct cultural entity regardless of its proportion of the total population.
- C) Some of the issues which shall be included in a new constitution in a fashion acceptable to all parties in order to balance these two principles are,
- i) Government decision-making should rest as closely as possible with those governed; people and communities should have control over those matters which effect them exclusively and they should have input in and influence over those decisions which effect them as well as others,
 - ii) Aboriginal rights relating to language, culture and any other political rights which are not included in claims agreements shall be entrenched in a constitution and means found to help ensure that all aboriginal rights are protected,
 - iii) There shall be a guarantee of aboriginal participation in government and significant impact on decision making in the future including perhaps exclusive aboriginal jurisdictions in limited areas of direct concern to aboriginal people; the focus would be on cultural matters and on the special relationship that exists between aboriginal peoples and the land and the political protections required to ensure its maintenance,
 - iv) Every level of government in the western jurisdiction must have sufficient power, authority, and resources available to it to enable it to carry out its responsibilities; the level of funding available should be assured and predictable and the restrictions on the uses of these resources flexible,
 - v) Further transfer of powers and jurisdictions from Ottawa to the north is desirable and shall be vigorously pursued,
 - vi) All or parts of the constitution which address each of these principles and objectives must not be amendable without the approval of aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples,
 - vii) The relevant sections entrenched in this constitution plus what is or will be entrenched within claims will constitute the definition of aboriginal self-government within the western jurisdiction.

COPE Principles on Regional Government

Presented to NCF Constitutional Conference, Coppermine, September, 1985

1. The protection of individuals in that each and every resident of the region shall have the right to benefit and participate in public institutions, programs and services.
2. The people and communities of the region shall have control over the programs and services vital to the preservation of the cultural identity and values of its residents.
3. The people and communities of the region shall have control of the institutions which provide programs and services to ensure policies support the preservation of the culture and values of its residents.
4. The people of the region shall have access to and the fiscal control of public resources in order to provide efficient and effective regional government.
5. The people and member communities shall share in lands and resources revenues from within the region to provide effective responsible regional government.
6. Inuvialuktun shall be an official working language of the regional government.
7. The regional government shall be representative of and accountable to the people and the communities of the region respecting the areas within its jurisdiction.
8. Community councils of the region shall have ascendancy within the framework of the western arctic regional government.
9. The voluntary association of its member communities shall be the genesis of the regional government.

1. ለግብርና ምርመራ ዘርፍ ለግብርና ምርመራ ለውጤቶች ለሚጠቀሙት

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2. አጠቃላይ ግብርና ምርመራ

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3. የግብርና ምርመራ ግብር

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4. ለግብርና ምርመራ ለውጤቶች

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vii) ርገታ ልዩ ልዩ የሥራ ስልጠና የሚያስፈልገውን ለሥራ ባለሙያዎች ለማድረግ ሲጠቀሙ ይኸውም የሥራ ስልጠና አቅራቢዎች ለማግኘት ሲሞክሩ ለሥራ ስልጠናው የሚገባውን ስልጠናው ለማድረግ ይረዳሉ።

viii) ርገታ የሥራ ስልጠናውን የሚያገለግል ለሥራ ስልጠናው ይረዳል። ይህም የሥራ ስልጠናውን የሚያስፈልገውን ለሥራ ስልጠናው ይረዳል። የሥራ ስልጠናውን የሚያስፈልገውን ለሥራ ስልጠናው ይረዳል።

