

DECLARATION

6th UArctic Rectors' Forum, Winnipeg, Canada

"Pan-Arctic Cooperation: Regional Partnerships with Global Impact"

The University of the Arctic's overall goal is to create a strong, sustainable circumpolar region by empowering northerners and indigenous peoples through education, training and shared knowledge. Further, by partnering with other stakeholders in the Circumpolar North, including national and regional governments, indigenous peoples' organizations, community leaders, and various actors in the private sector, UArctic has sought to ensure that the capacity, competence, and relevance of its members are recognized.

UArctic recognises that both world-class research and education can be done in the North, and that traditional knowledge as an integral part of education and research plays an important role in the northern knowledge base. Additionally, through its *Thematic Networks*, UArctic enhances collaboration among its members and external partners in specific areas of expertise. These thematic networks create a natural framework for the development of UArctic training, education, and mobility programs, as well as tools for knowledge generation and application. All in all, UArctic encourages development of activities that foster discussions, international experiences, and understanding of northern issues with global significance.

UArctic is a portal and forum through which education and research can be organized and delivered in the circumpolar region. Given the diversity of institutions making up the UArctic, there is great asymmetry in the resources available for Arctic scholarship, a factor magnified by government and national priorities and policy. Institutional collaboration and partnership development must continually adjust and reprioritize with changes in the climate, government policy, and resource extraction opportunities and concerns.

As leaders of higher education institutions, we, the delegates of the 6th UArctic Rectors' Forum assembled in Winnipeg, Canada, from the 14th to 15th of November 2012, declare and express our shared views on the following:

- We share in the goal to build a circumpolar community that opens new academic, research, and career opportunities for northerners and provides a deeper understanding of both the complex issues that the north is facing and the vital role that the north is playing in the overall development of the globe.
- In an effort to enhance opportunities for students to further their studies, the potential of online education should be explored and developed as a tool for promoting quality, accessibility and collaboration in higher education in the North. Further, students should have the possibility of doing case and field studies, and gain practical work experience in another northern region. Therefore, we ask national and regional governments in the Arctic to consider ways to fund a comprehensive circumpolar mobility program, modelled around the experiences of UArctic's *north2north Student Mobility Program*.
- In pursuing our common goals in the Arctic, we will maintain sustained leadership in connecting knowledge with action, where the application of different knowledge

systems plays a key role in improving the health and well-being of all northern inhabitants and of the natural environment.

- We affirm our intent to work in interdisciplinary and inter-institutional partnerships to address pressing circumpolar concerns in informed and sustainable ways. We will embrace the diversity of our institutions and by combining our various strengths will achieve together what cannot be done in isolation.
- In a rapidly changing world, diversity is strength. We promote engagements in indigenous capacity building to maintain diversity and to vitalize indigenous languages and cultures.
- We urge governments to support our scientists in their efforts to understand climate change and the natural systems of the Arctic, as well as implications for resource extraction opportunities and concerns. Economic development must be predicated by knowledge and understanding of local environments and cultures.
- We support the participation and lobbying for large scale international project funding, to develop shared infrastructure unavailable previously or separately and to ensure better coordination of efforts.
- We will encourage and support our academic communities to partner with local government and community organizations to ensure scientific exploration is relevant, meaningful and inclusive of northerners' priorities and interests.
- We will encourage and support our students at all levels to form partnerships and participate in learning experiences that transcend international borders within the circumpolar region. As part of the UArctic experience we encourage future Student Forum organizers to adopt a contemporary UArctic theme for their meetings.
- We appreciated receiving details on the plan and process for UArctic's new Strategic Plan 2020, and following approval by the Board and the Council of UArctic, we look forward to receiving the final plan at the next Rectors' Forum meeting.
- We receive the declaration made by the 2012 UArctic Student Forum participants, and advise both the Board and Council of UArctic to review and give their full consideration to these recommendations (Annex 1). In addition and on the basis of the student recommendations:
 1. We encourage more significant student participation in all aspects of UArctic decision making.
 2. We will seek to raise the visibility of the UArctic amongst our institutions.
 3. We will collaborate to foster the development of greater virtual mobility opportunities.

Chaired by the President of the University of Manitoba, David T. Barnard

This declaration was adopted by the delegates of the 6th UArctic Rectors' Forum on
Wednesday, November 15th, 2012, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.



UArctic Student Declaration 2012

Arctic Sustainability: Building Partnerships through Education

Sustainability today requires the integration of the following key elements: health and social well-being, natural sciences, economic growth, multiculturalism and indigenous development – meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future. Specifically in the Arctic, sustainability must be accomplished through the understanding of global challenges and responding locally through adaptation, resilience and environmental responsibility. In order to achieve this, UArctic needs *active student representation*, which will enhance UArctic *visibility*, in turn strengthening *knowledge exchange*, leading to the development of meaningful research and *improved educational opportunities*.

Student Representation

We propose a UArctic student council representative to have a fixed position as a qualified voting member in decision making meetings, such as board meetings and strategic planning.

Student Forum 2012 participants will establish a Student Council. In the future the student council will consist of student representatives at each member institution who are currently enrolled in any UArctic curriculum or have UArctic interest.

Visibility

UArctic must develop a clear and concise mandate as a means for communicating and increasing the visibility within member institutions, affiliated students and the global community. Therefore we recommend UArctic:

- targets audiences aimed at current and prospective students;
- expands means of external communication through appropriate media;
- internally promotes UArctic programs via academic advising and presenting to undergraduate students;
- implements an Annual Day of the UArctic, highlighting member institutions' contributions to Arctic interdisciplinary sciences and academic programs;
- creates a contract between the North2North student and their home and host institutions to promote UArctic pre- and post-exchange.

Knowledge exchange

UArctic should increase brand visibility and values within mobility programs using current students and alumni. We recommend:

- host institutions should offer lectures on native language, traditional knowledge and land management to introduce exchange students to the local culture in the context according to UArctic values;



- UArctic create a new logo for North2North that clarifies their relationship;
- member institutions support internal and external exchange;
- strengthening of faculty and student exchange.

Education

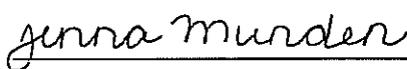
UArctic needs to establish itself as the leader in Arctic distance education. Therefore, we recommend:

- a consistent online platform and quality in design, development, and delivery using all available internet resources;
- increasing the number of multi-lingual courses offered, as well as language courses, both undergraduate and graduate, through online supported learning;
- UArctic member institutions need to promote and recognize online education programs as equally valuable as classroom-based programs (i.e. Circumpolar Studies program);
- enhanced career opportunities for UArctic students by collaborating with organizations in the North to increase internships, work studies and sponsorship.

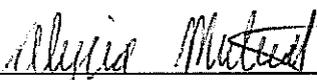
In conclusion, successful realization of this declaration is vital for the future of UArctic and crucial for the achievement of Arctic sustainability.

In witness thereof, UArctic Student Delegates 2012

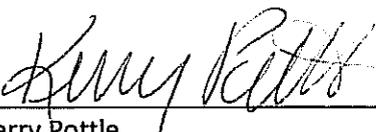

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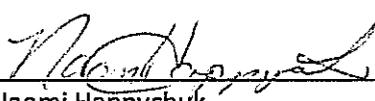

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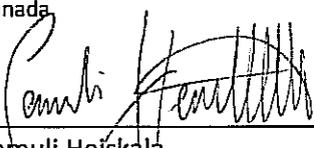

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November 13, 2012
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada