



Murmansk Oblast

LETTER OF INTENT TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA, CANADA, AND THE MURMANSK OBLAST, RUSSIA, FOR MUTUAL COOPERATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE TRADING LINKS THROUGH THE PORT OF CHURCHILL, MANITOBA, CANADA, AND THE PORT OF MURMANSK, MURMANSK OBLAST, RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

Whereas, the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Canada signed in December 18, 2000 the Agreement on the Key Principles of Cooperation between the subjects of the Russian Federation and Provinces and Territories of Canada;

Whereas, this Agreement referred to is designed to develop mutually beneficial relations of partnership between the subjects of the Russian Federation and provinces and territories of Canada;

Whereas, recognizing the importance and experience accumulated in the development of the "Arctic Bridge" project that is intended to link the interests of the Port of Murmansk, Russia, and the Port of Churchill, Canada;

Whereas, a project feasibility study was undertaken in 1992 by Russian and Canadian scientists and experts to evaluate the possibilities for facilitating the economic development of the Murmansk Oblast and the Province of Manitoba;

Whereas, the geographic location and proximity of the two ports, and linkages thereof, would be facilitative of trade between the Russian Federation and Canada, and provide economic benefits to the Province of Manitoba and Murmansk Oblast;

Therefore, the Province of Manitoba and Murmansk Oblast intend to work cooperatively to the fullest extent possible, consistent with law, existing treaties, and confidentiality requirements of their respective countries, to develop marine trading links through the ports of Murmansk and Churchill.

Therefore, it is the intention of the parties signing below to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Province of Manitoba and the Murmansk Oblast. This Letter of Intent does not represent a commitment by either party to any terms, conditions and obligations, but does represent a willingness to work together toward mutually beneficial transportation and economic development endeavours as pertaining to the development of marine links through the ports of Churchill and Murmansk. The mode of the cooperation will be set forth in the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed at a future date.

Executed in Moscow, Russia this 15th day of February 2002 in two copies in English and Russian, with both texts having equal legal force.

original signed by
Deputy Governor of the Murmansk Oblast
V. Motlokhov

On behalf of the Murmansk Oblast

Witness:

original signed by
Premier of the Province of Manitoba
G. Doer

On behalf of the Province of Manitoba

Witness:

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