



CONFERENCE
OF PARLIAMENTARIANS
OF THE ARCTIC REGION

Oslo, 31 October 2011

Premier of the Northwest Territories

Arctic educational cooperation and the University of the Arctic

Dear Mr. Floyd K. Roland,

The Arctic is the object of increased attention, from Arctic and non-Arctic nations, the science community and particularly from the business sector. To meet this development, building an educated workforce in, and increasing our understanding of the Arctic is fundamental. Education enables us achieve this and to build sustainable societies. In the sparsely populated areas in the North this is beneficial to the people living there, but also to the nation state as a whole.

Parliamentarians from all the Arctic countries have through the years been strong supporters of the establishment and development of the University of the Arctic. With relatively small means UArctic manages to build expertise and connections between all our countries which are of great benefit to us all. In my view cooperation between educational institutions as well as student exchange are very effective ways of building mutual understanding between peoples and nations.

I am convinced that the Arctic nations have everything to gain by cooperating closely to develop education institutions in the North. The private and public sectors depend on an educated work force to fully achieve the potential of the Arctic. The UArctic helps us to reach this goal.

I am very grateful for the generous contribution Canada has given to the development of the UArctic, but its recent cut in funding concerns me greatly. I ask you and your fellow premiers in the Yukon and Nunavut to examine how you might further support the UArctic as a valuable institution that will help develop your jurisdictions as well as the circumpolar north.

Yours Sincerely,

Morten Høglund

Chair of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region