

HJR

24

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GRUENBERG, Dahlstrom

Introduced: 4/14/03
Referred: State Affairs

OS STA
HJR 24

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the Alaska-Yukon Intergovernmental Relations Accord, to annual legislative
2 exchanges, and to continuing intergovernmental work on matters of joint concern and
3 mutual interest.

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

5 WHEREAS the citizens of Yukon Territory, Canada, and the citizens of Alaska share
6 many interests and connections, and have long enjoyed an extensive and open common
7 border; and

8 WHEREAS the Yukon Legislative Assembly and the Alaska State legislature have a
9 longstanding tradition of annual legislative exchanges since 1980; and

10 WHEREAS Pat Duncan, the former Premier of the Yukon, and Tony Knowles, the
11 former Governor of Alaska, signed the Alaska-Yukon Intergovernmental Relations Accord on
12 September 8, 2000, for Alaska and the Yukon Territory to work together on matters of joint
13 concern and enter into specific cooperative arrangements; and

Amendment #1

14 WHEREAS the Alaska-Yukon Intergovernmental Relations Accord will expire on
15 September 8, 2003;

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the extension of the
2 Alaska-Yukon Intergovernmental Relations Accord; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature offers to continue to
4 engage in annual legislative exchanges with the Yukon Legislative Assembly and to continue
5 to work with the Yukon Legislative Assembly on matters of joint concern and mutual interest.

6 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dennis Fentie, Premier of
7 Yukon Territory; and to the Honorable Frank Murkowski, Governor of Alaska.

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Judiciary Committee
State Affairs Committee
Military & Veterans' Affairs Committee

Finance Subcommittees:
Courts
Department of Law
Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs



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Representative Max Gruenberg

Sponsor Statement for HJR 24

Alaska and the Yukon Territory have many common issues and interests. In recognition of this reality, former Governor Tony Knowles and former Premier Pat Duncan of the Government of Yukon signed an intergovernmental relations accord on Sep. 8, 2000, to work together on matters of joint concern and enter into specific cooperative arrangements. The agreement is set to expire on September 8, 2003. This resolution will urge Governor Frank Murkowski and Dennis Fentie, Premier of Yukon, to extend the accord. It will also state the desire of the Alaska State Legislature to continue the tradition of annual legislative exchanges with the Yukon Legislative Assembly.



**ALASKA-YUKON INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS ACCORD**

BETWEEN

**THE GOVERNMENT OF YUKON
AS REPRESENTED BY
THE PREMIER**

AND

**THE STATE OF ALASKA
AS REPRESENTED BY
THE GOVERNOR**

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Yukon and Alaska share many ties including an extensive common border and aboriginal kinship ties; and,

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Yukon and Alaska have a long-standing relationship of friendship and trust; and,

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Yukon and Alaska have mutual concerns and interests about issues around the environment, economic development, and human development; and,

WHEREAS, the Yukon Government and the State of Alaska have existing valuable cooperative agreements in the areas of tourism, transportation, and resource management; and,

WHEREAS, the Yukon Legislative Assembly and the Alaska State Legislature have a tradition of annual legislative exchanges under the auspices of another branch of government; and,

WHEREAS, the North American Free Trade Agreement provides for enhanced trade relations between Canada and the United States; and,

WHEREAS, there are opportunities to be explored to enhance the relationship between the two governments, to resolve issues, and to develop opportunities for their respective regions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Governments of the Yukon and Alaska pledge to continue to work together on matters of joint concern and mutual interest, to share information, promote understanding, and identify additional areas in which there can be joint formal and informal cooperation;

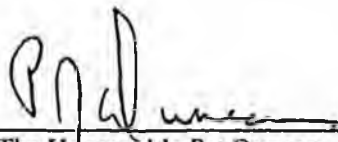
The Premier and the Governor agree to meet as necessary to review issues of mutual interest, foster joint economic opportunities, and monitor progress towards enhanced joint cooperative efforts;

The Premier and the Governor will continue to appoint officials to serve as principal points of liaison for policy purposes and the expeditious sharing of information about mutual interests and will encourage the two governments to work together on matters of joint concern;

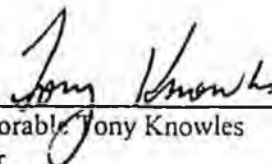
The Premier and the Governor, or their designees will when appropriate enter into specific cooperative arrangements on particular matters of common interest, including, but not limited to, tourism, energy, trade, transportation, and fish and wildlife management. Such agreements will be incorporated as appendices to this Intergovernmental Relations Accord.

This Accord shall be in effect from its date of signature through September 8, 2003, and may be reviewed and amended by the consent of both governments.

Dated at Juneau, Alaska, this 8th day of September, 2000.



The Honourable Pat Duncan
Premier
Government of Yukon



The Honorable Tony Knowles
Governor
State of Alaska

MEMORANDUM

March 27, 2003

To: Legislators going to Whitehorse

From: Senator Fred Dyson

RE: Mission in Whitehorse

This memo is to inform you about our upcoming trip to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory

HISTORY- Alaska and the Yukon Territory have been having and hosting legislative exchanges for about a decade. Former Senator Randy Phillips took the lead in this. The two jurisdictions alternate hosting this event. The issues vary and the players have changed, but this effort has always been profitable.

DIFFERENCES IN GOVERNMENTS –Yukon has a parliamentary form of government. This combines what we would call the executive and legislative branches. Some members of the Legislative Assembly also have a specific “portfolio” which means they are also the “commissioner” of a specific department of the territorial government. The parliamentary system allows the minority “loyal opposition” no power to propose legislation or amend bills. The Minority exerts most of its power by questioning the “Government” majority, and trying to embarrass them. This mostly happens at the conclusion of each days legislative session.

The parliamentary system generally does not allow for cross party coalitions or caucuses for a specific purpose such as our “bush” caucus, fish caucus etc. The last few years a bit of that may be happening in Northern B.C.

The parliamentary system also does not generally have committees. In the last few years, Yukon Territory has started having some committees and they actually may have been encouraged in that direction by working with us.

NATIVE ISSUES- The Canadians and especially the people in Yukon Territory are deeply involved in native land claims issues. They call their aboriginal population “First Nations” and refer to “Bands” instead of tribes or villages or native corporations. A decade ago they, evolved a brilliant system and process for resolving the issues of land, hunting rights, subsistence, mineral rights etc. My understanding is that there are still many unresolved issues and that the Bands are being aggressive about holding up some economic development projects until they are sure that their Bands needs and wants are met. Some efforts by NW Territory may be in that category. I understand that most of Yukon's First Nations People are related to our Athabaskan People. I believe there are First Nations People on Yukon's North Coast that are related to Alaska's Inupiat people.

CANADIAN CULTURE AND CUSTOMS- In general, Canadians feel that most Americans are negligently ignorant of their neighbors to the north and that Canadians are taken for granted and/or ignored. Many Canadians feel defensive about being over-whelmed by the dominating culture and economic power of their American neighbors. Canadians watch American TV programs, buy American products read American books and magazines but they have three or four very popular Prime Time TV shows that do nothing but ridicule how ignorant and

insensitive Americans are. Hockey is the national pastime and the movement of Canadian teams and players to the US is troubling.

Canadians and Americans have fought side-by-side in all major wars and police actions for 90 years. The Canadians responded heroically after 9/11. Canadians are fighting with our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Canadian warships are on duty off Iraq. The Canadians are major partners in the defense of North America. We share the longest open border in the world, and are each other's greatest trading partners.

Most Western Canadians feel slighted and frustrated by the actions and attitudes of their Federal Government in Ottawa, not unlike how we feel about our Federal Government. Most Canadians in Northern British Columbia and Yukon feel they have more in common with us than they do with their Southern and Eastern countrymen.

HEALTH INSURANCE AND FIREARMS- A huge difference in attitudes shows up on these issues. Canada has a very extensive Public Health Program that takes care of everybody. It has problems, but Canadians love it and are not very open to hearing it criticize. The westward expansion and settlement of Canada was different than the US. In Canada, the government and law enforcement in the form of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police went with the first wave of non-native settlers. This reduced the need for individuals to protect themselves. The Canadian Federal Government has gone very far in greatly restricting handgun ownership and registering all firearms. Northern Canadians tend to resent their Federal Governments anti-gun actions, but they tend to think that Americans are gun happy and off base on our passionate defense of our 2nd Amendment.

OUR JOB ON THIS TRIP is to help convince the Yukoners that we are their friends and allies, and we have much in common and our futures are in-separately linked together. We want them to see us as fellow Northerners and partners in a great, mutual future. We **MUST NOT** convey that they are, or will be, ignored. We need these folks as equal partners and they need to know that we will always want their input and full partnership.

MAJOR COMMON PROJECTS include a gas pipeline partnership that will allow the stranded gas from both of our jurisdictions to get to market. The folks in Yukon are also very interested in having a railroad link to the Canadian National railroad at Fork Nelson. The railroad link would open up some major mining areas in Yukon Territory as well as Central Alaska. The Yukon area also shares revenues from tourist that are going to and from Alaska. There is an agreement in place that uses some American funds to maintain and upgrade the Alaska Highway using Canadian equipment and personnel. This seems to work very well.

At least twice the Knowles administration cut off winter/spring road maintenance to a northern cross border road from Alaska to the Klondike. This hurt many Canadians and Governor Murkowski has restored this service I believe. We have some wildlife issues, most prominently the porcupine caribou herd. There are some on going joint projects.

The Yukon Government has not supported opening ANWR because their First Nations oppose it. It is probably no wise to argue this.

31st Legislative Assembly
Seating Plan – Effective April 1, 2003

Speaker – Ted Staffen

Deputy Speaker – Patrick Rouble

Steve Cardiff

Mount Lorne

Lorraine Peter

Vuntut Gwitchin

Gary McRobb

Official Opposition House Leader

Kluane

Todd Hardy

Leader of the Official Opposition

Whitehorse Centre

Eric Fairclough

Mayo-Tatchun

Pat Duncan

Leader of the Third Party

Porter Creek South

Speaker's Chair

Clerk

TABLE

Deputy Clerk

Peter Jenkins

H&SS YWCHSB

Government House Leader

Klondike

Dennis Fentie

Premier

ECO

Finance

Economic Development

Watson Lake

Elaine Taylor

Justice

Tourism & Culture

Whitehorse West

Jim Kenyon

Environment

Porter Creek North

John Edzerza

Education

PSC

McIntyre-Takhini

Ted Staffen

Speaker

Riverdale North

Haakon Arntzen

Copperbelt

Archie Lang

Energy, Mines & Resources

YDC/YEC

Porter Creek Centre

Glenn Hart

Highways & Public Works

Community Services

YLC, YHC

Riverdale South

Patrick Rouble

Deputy Speaker

Southern Lakes

Dean Hassard

Pelly-Nisutlin

Brad Cathers

Lake Laberge

**GUESTS IN THE GALLERY ARE NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY WAY.
 COMMENTS OR APPLAUSE ARE NOT ALLOWED.**

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HJR 24
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: _____
 Title Alaska-Yukon Intergovernmental BRU _____
Relations Accord Component _____
 Sponsor Rep. Gruenberg, Rep. Dahlstrom _____
 Requester House State Affairs Component No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | FY 2006 | FY 2007 | FY 2008 | FY 2009 |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Personal Services | | | | | | |
| Travel | 7.0 | | | | | |
| Contractual | 3.0 | | | | | |
| Supplies | | | | | | |
| Equipment | | | | | | |
| Land & Structures | | | | | | |
| Grants & Claims | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CHANGE IN REVENUES () | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts | | | | | | |
| 1003 GF Match | | | | | | |
| 1004 GF | | | | | | |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts | | | | | | |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health | | | | | | |
| Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate) | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Full-time | | | | | | |
| Part-time | | | | | | |
| Temporary | | | | | | |

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: House State Affairs Committee Phone _____
 Division _____ Date/Time: 5/9/03 1:53 PM
 Approved by: Representative Bruce Weyhrauch, Chair Date: 5/9/2003
 Agency _____