

ACTIVITIES REPORT

CROWN AGENCY COUNCIL

of the

GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT

September 1, 2003 through October 31, 2005

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### 1. Formation and Mandate

In response to the recognized need to optimize the management of GN's public agencies, Cabinet established the Crown Agency Council (CAC) in September, 2003.

The CAC consists of three committees:

- the Ministerial Steering Committee (SC) directs the Council's efforts, and makes final decisions concerning matters of policy and courses of action recommended by the other committees;
- the Deputies Committee (DC) is responsible to the SC for ensuring that action directed by the SC is undertaken satisfactorily and produces the desired results; and
- the Working Committee is responsible to both the DC and the SC for continual oversight and evaluation of the operations of the public agencies.

The Steering Committee meets, at a minimum, quarterly and at the call of the Chair, the Minister of Finance. The Deputies and Working Committees meet as and when required.

The mandate of the CAC is to:

- operate in an advisory capacity to Cabinet and the FMB through their respective Chairpersons regarding matters of governance for public agencies; and
- provide recommendations, as appropriate, to Ministers Responsible and to Cabinet and FMB, regarding matters including statutory requirements, budget impacts and legislative initiatives.

The functions of the CAC have concentrated on the following organizations:

Nunavut Arctic College  
Nunavut Business Credit Corporation  
Nunavut Development Corporation  
Nunavut Housing Corporation  
Qulliq Energy Corporation

In addition, the CAC has been reviewing the Acts and Policies pertaining to the following:

Human Rights Tribunal  
Labour Standards Board  
Legal Services Board of Nunavut  
Liquor Licensing Board  
Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council  
Workers' Compensation Board

## 2.) Policies Reviewed

The GN policies and guidelines, under which each public agency operates, are not always internally clear or consistent and at times may contradict the Government's goals and policies.

Accordingly, the CAC completed an analysis of all GN policies in terms of their applicability, or not, to public agencies. As a result, several policies are being amended, including:

- the Priority Hiring Policy (amendment is to ensure that the Government fulfills its obligations under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, Article 23); and
- the Anti-Harassment Policy (expanded contents to include other types of harassment in addition to sexual harassment).

The Working Committee of the CAC will soon be recommending further amendments to policies included in the analysis.

### 3.) Legislation Reviewed

To ensure that the legislation governing the various agencies provides them with adequate authority and support, the CAC has a responsibility to assist the boards and management of agencies, as well as the departments responsible for them in identifying the need for legislative initiatives to enable improvements in the governance and running of agencies, and determining the nature of such initiatives. In order to accomplish this goal the first step was the comparison of the enacting legislation governing the territorial corporations and boards.

As of March 31, 2005 this process was substantially completed, resulting in several Legislative Proposals planned for - including the following for the November 2005 session:

1. An FAA amendment requiring public agencies to submit budgets to FMB for approval; and allowing Regulations to be made about contracting by public agencies; and
2. A Conflict of Interest Act amendment so this act will apply to all public agencies, as defined in the FAA.

### 4. Letters of Expectation

With the intent of improving financial management, accountability, and corporate governance, Letters of Expectations were sent to the five territorial corporations in May 2005.

These letters clearly outlined requirements that the public agencies must follow with respect to daily operations, long term planning, financial operations and reporting.

Each of the five territorial corporations was instructed in their Letter of Expectation (tabled May 2, 2005) the following:

“These responses must be tabled during the first session of the Legislature subsequent to the corporation receiving these letters.”

A database has been put in place, in order to monitor the compliance with these guidelines on an ongoing basis. This is also in compliance with the directions from the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability (SCGOA).

## 5. Other

At times there has been uncertainty among the Government and public agency officials as to how certain legislation, policies and procedures apply to the public agencies. In order to provide clear direction and assistance to the public agencies on this issue, one of the steps that the CAC has taken is to prepare a handbook specific to public agencies.

This handbook will be a compilation of all the applicable legislation and GN policies and procedures which must be adhered to by the public agencies. The first edition of the CAC Handbook for territorial corporations and boards is substantially complete and will be released in the 2005-06 fiscal year.

As a further step in improving accountability, the CAC has researched and recommended a governance model for use by the public agencies.

Once the model has been finalized and the public agencies have been consulted it should be ready for initial implementation in the 2006-07 fiscal year.