



Northern Research Forum

The 3<sup>rd</sup> NRF Open Meeting:  
The Resilient North – Human Responses  
to Global Change

Yellowknife, NWT, Canada  
September 15 -18, 2004



Yellowknife

Photo: Jiri Hermann

The 3rd NRF Open Meeting will take place in Yellowknife and Rae Edzo, Northwest Territories, Canada, from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, 2004. The event will be hosted by the Government of the Northwest Territories, the City of Yellowknife, Aurora College, and the community of Rae Edzo, and organized by the Northern Research Forum in cooperation with the Canadian Polar Commission.

For on-line Registration and updated information, please go to [www.nrf.is](http://www.nrf.is)

# Themes, Sessions and Timetable

(August 26, 2004 version)

.The NRF Steering Committee hereby announces the following list of thematic plenary sessions, with sub-themes, and project sessions for the 3rd Open Meeting.

## The Resilient North – Human Responses to Global Change

The Circumpolar North has always been a region of dramatic changes in its environment, both during and between periods of human occupancy. Peoples of the North have an inherent ability to adapt to change, whether it is rapid or gradual, and their cultures, societies and economies have responded with a vibrancy that is greater than that of many other regions of the world.

In the last two centuries the North has seen periods of political influence from the south and now, as it moves to strong local and regional political systems, it is approaching the opportunities and challenges of globalization in innovative ways. The main theme of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Open Meeting of the Northern Research Forum, “The Resilient North – Human Responses to Global Change,” builds on the themes of the Akureyri and Veliky Novgorod Open Meetings, “North Meets North” and “Northern Veche”, with a focus on those issues that are challenging the ability of northerners to adapt to change. The causes of change have usually been outside the region and beyond the control of the population – thus, leadership is critical in the North.

The Plenary and Project Day sessions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> NRF Open Meeting will demonstrate some of the responses to the opportunities posed by not only globalization and climate change, but also other changes taking place in the world, while broadly addressing questions of security and how to implement and promote adaptive capacity and human change in the North.

September 15 • Plenary 1

## Perspectives of Appointed and Elected Officials

The North is represented in regional, national and international debate by appointed officials and elected leaders who come from all levels of government, not least from within local communities. We are requesting that these leaders speak of their own unique experiences in connection with current North to South and North to North relations, and with the themes of the Open Meeting in general.

September 15 • Plenary 2 and Square Hour\*

\*Note: The panel includes five experts or stakeholders in different professional fields from throughout the Circumpolar North, whereas the additional “Square Hour” is reserved for presentations by young researchers, also coming from different regions of the North.

## Governance, Resources and Co-management

Governance has changed dramatically in some parts of the Arctic and is in the process of change in most other parts. The people of the North are assuming greater national and international roles, while responding to the globalization of economies, to international agreements that marginalize the North, and to the effects of climate change. The second plenary session will provide a wide range of perspectives on how the inherent resilience of the North may serve to ensure that the North seizes the opportunities being presented in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Possible topics for discussion include:

- Building capacity for long term economic growth
- Efficient use of energy resources and development of alternative technologies
- Suggestions for culturally and environmentally sensitive resource exploitation
- Ensuring local investment in the economy
- Methods for ensuring cleanup and waste removal after economic activity
- Equity and Inheritance: Maintaining and adding significantly to of the value of resources in the North during manufacturing and processing
- The role of media in government
- ICT and emerging models of governance
- Human development

September 16 • Plenary 3 and Square Hour

### Cultural Resilience and the Tourist Economy

Tourism and its associated services are viewed in many parts of the world as a significant part of the strategy of economic advancement. Tourism focusing on culture, however, raises serious issues for dynamic societies as it is often rooted in the past and promotes historical stereotypes, while tourism focusing on the environment, either passively, as in eco-tourism, or actively, as in hunting, raises ethical and conservation issues. This theme has a field trip component to Rae Edzo, a Dogrib First Nation community, where we will discuss research issues such as the resilience of the local population, and the role of tourism as a mainstay of the economy.

Possible topics for discussion include:

- The sustainability of initiatives based in environments where climate change, in general, and global warming, in particular, are having their greatest effect
- How cultures address tourism where heritage and the relevance of history are controversial issues
- Sources of investment capital for large-scale activities in regions of low population density
- The relationship between indigenous communities and national legislation in connection with, for example, accreditation for guides and tourist facilities, licensing of firearms and infrastructure, etc.
- Mediation of time conflicts between tourism activities and land-based cultural activities
- Comparative studies on tourism in the Circumpolar North

September 17 • Project Day

Project day sessions in Akureyri and Veliky Novgorod addressed a series of ongoing projects and programs in a small workshop format. Projects ranged from circumpolar research initiatives such as Reindeer/Caribou programs, and assessment initiatives such as the Arctic Human Development Report, to organizations such as the University of the Arctic. In Yellowknife we wish to illustrate a number of initiatives reflecting resilience and human change, not just in the circumpolar world, which may have significant import elsewhere in our global society.

The following is a tentative, incomplete list of Project Days session topics. It does not reflect all the proposals and suggestions which the NRF Steering Committee has received from interested prospective participants. A definitive list of Project Day sessions will be announced at the end of May, 2004.

- Northern Nursing Programs
- University of the Arctic

- Environmental Assessment & Sustainable Land Use and Resource Planning
- Northern Traveling Film Festival
- Economies in the North
- Research for, with, and by Northern Society & Arctic Research in the Public Interest

September 18 • Plenary 4 and Square Hour

### Security

Transcending, probably, all other issues in the North is the wide ranging one of security. Security involves all elements connected with the resilience of Northern communities, ranging from notions of military security and the nation state, which many consider to be outdated, to environmental security, and to the most pressing needs of civil security. Civil security involves issues of culture, food, and freedom of expression; the security afforded by a developed infrastructure and community health program; access to the necessities of modern society without the intrusion of aspects of southern culture; and security of communications.

The plenary session could consider themes of:

- Militarization – both de-militarization and re-militarization – of the North
- Security through the new governance structures emerging, or already in place, in the North
- The ability to respond to environmental and human disasters
- Civil security in a world of media globalization of culture
- The meaning national borders in the circumpolar world
- Culturally relevant education
- Adaptation and vulnerability in the context of global change

September 18 • Closing Summary Session

### Timetable

#### Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> Excursions and NRF Steering Committee meeting

12:50-17:00	NRF Steering Committee meets in the Legislative Building (room A) Yellowknife Tours, organized by the Northern Host Committee and the Aurora World Corporation
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#### Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> Opening and Plenary Sessions

09:00-09:30	Prayers and Welcome Ceremony
09:30-10:00	Official welcome from First Nations Chiefs, the Premier of the Northwest Territories, the City of Yellowknife, Aurora College, and the NRF Steering Committee Chairman
10:00-11:15	<b>PLENARY 1. PERSPECTIVES OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS</b>
11:15-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:30	<b>PLENARY 1. (cont.)</b>
12:30-14:00	Lunch on own
14:00-15:30	<b>PLENARY 2. GOVERNANCE, RESOURCES AND COMANAGEMENT</b>
15:30-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-18:00	<b>PLENARY 2. (cont.) + SQUARE HOUR</b>
19:00-21:00	Reception and Buffet, hosted by the City of Yellowknife
21:00-23:00	<b>NORTHERN TRAVELING FILM FESTIVAL</b>

**Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>                      Traveling Plenary Sessions in Rae Edzo**

09:00	Departure for Rae Edzo by bus. Natural science and development discussion en route
10:30-11:00	Prayers and Welcome, and coffee break in Edzo
11:00-13:00	<b>PLENARY 3. CULTURAL RESILIENCE AND THE TOURIST ECONOMY</b>
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-16:30	<b>PLENARY 3. (cont.) + SQUARE HOUR</b>
16:30-17:00	<b>Busses depart from Edzo for Rae</b>
17:00-19:00	Cultural program and supper in Rae
19:00	Return to Yellowknife
21:00-22:00	<b>NORTHERN FILMS - YELLOWKNIFE</b> (tentative)

**Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>                      Project Day**

09:00-09:30	Prayers at individual locations	
	<b>Listing of Project Sessions</b>	<b>Time and Location</b>
<b>Parallel Sessions (most running either during morning or afternoon)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of the Arctic</li> <li>• Northern Nursing Programs</li> </ul>	These two sessions will be held back-to-back in the afternoon Morning session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Assessment &amp; Sustainable Land Use and Resource Planning (two-parts session)</li> <li>• Northern Traveling Film Festival</li> </ul>	Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center; Morning & afternoon session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economies in the North</li> </ul>	Afternoon session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research for, with, and by Northern Society &amp; Northern Research in the Public Interest</li> </ul>	Morning Afternoon
09:30-11:00	<b>Project Sessions</b>	
11:00-11:15	Coffee break	
11:15-12:30	<b>Project Sessions continued</b>	
12:30-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:30	<b>Project Sessions continued</b>	
15:30-15:45	Coffee break	
15:45-17:30	<b>Project Sessions continued</b>	
	Dinner on own	
19:00-22:00	<b>Northern Traveling Film Festival</b>	

**Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>                      Plenary Session and Summary Session**

09:00-11:00	<b>PLENARY 4. SECURITY</b>
11:00-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-12:30	<b>PLENARY 4. (Cont.) + SQUARE HOUR</b>
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-16:00	<b>SUMMARY SESSION</b>
16:00	<b>CLOSING PRAYER</b>