

COOPERATION PROTOCOL

ALASKA HIGHWAY ABORIGINAL PIPELINE GROUP

AMONGST:

Those First Nations along the Alaska Highway Pipeline Corridor

WHEREAS:

- (A) The construction of a pipeline has been proposed along the Alaska Highway to transport natural gas from Alaska to states below the 49th parallel and that pipeline would cross the traditional territories of many First Nations in the Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta and Alaska;
- (B) The First Nations shared resources and traded goods amongst each other since time immemorial in order to survive and prosper in their respective traditional territories and now wish to confirm their commitment to work together with respect to matters related to the proposed pipeline;
- (C) The First Nations have common objectives with respect to the construction and operation of the proposed Alaska Highway pipeline, including the desire to ensure that:
 - a) their aboriginal and treaty rights are recognized and respected;
 - b) the integrity of the environment, lands and resources of their traditional territories are not compromised; and
 - c) the economic opportunities and benefits related to the proposed pipeline are maximized for their citizens and businesses.

THEREFORE the First Nations agree as follows:

1. Purposes

- 1.1 The purpose of this Protocol is to confirm the commitment of the First Nations to work together and identify matters with respect to the proposed Alaska Highway pipeline in which a cooperative approach would benefit their citizens and advance those matters.
- 1.2 This commitment from each of the First Nations shall be provided, by way of letter, indicating the mandate of the First Nation to sit as a Member to the Alaska Highway Aboriginal Pipeline Group.

1.3 The First Nations agree to work together in the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect in accordance with their traditional values in their efforts to fulfill the purposes of this Protocol.

2. Alaska Highway Aboriginal Pipeline Group (AHAPG)

2.1 The First Nations shall establish an AHAPG and appoint a representative from their First Nation to fulfill the responsibilities as set out in the Terms of Reference of the AHAPG.

2.2 The Leadership of the First Nations shall undertake lobby initiatives with governments and industry on matters relating to the proposed pipeline.

3. Sharing Information

3.1 The First Nations confirm their commitment to share information with respect to discussions with industry and government as well as related opinions, studies, research and agreements.

3.2 A First Nation may share information subject to a confidentiality condition and other First Nations will respect the confidentiality of that information and not provide it to any other person without the express consent of the First Nation that provided the information.

3.3 Each First Nation owns their traditional knowledge and any disclosure of that information will only occur by a legally binding protocol.

4. Matters of Issue to the AHAPG

4.1 The First Nations confirm their commitment to work together to ensure that the construction and operation of the pipeline:

4.1.1 does not compromise the integrity of the environment, lands and resources of their traditional territories;

4.1.2 maximizes to their citizens and businesses any and all of the economic and business opportunities and benefits;

4.1.3 addresses the sharing of tax and royalty revenue;

4.1.4 incorporates the establishment and administration of employment and training programs; and

4.1.5 considers the delivery of new or enhanced governmental programs, including social, health, employment, training and policing services, that may be required as a result of the proposed pipeline.

5. Non-Binding

5.1 This Protocol is not intended to be a contract or create legally-enforceable terms. It is not intended to impose any legal obligations upon the First Nations or bind their authorities.

5.2 Nothing in this Protocol is intended to affect the autonomy of the First Nations or their citizens to conduct or engage in any other activities or initiatives. The First Nations acknowledge the autonomy of each First Nation.

6.0 Amendment

6.1 The First Nations may amend this Protocol by way of written agreement.

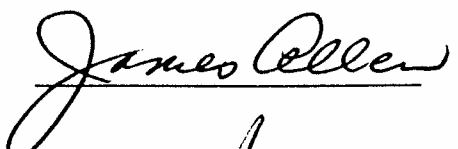
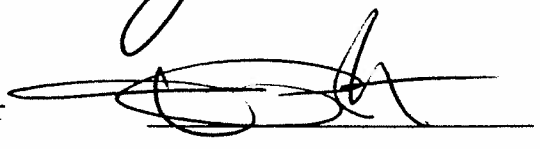

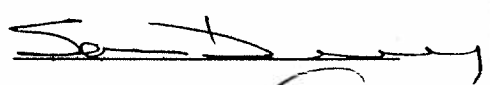


7.0 Non-Derogation

7.1 Nothing in this Protocol will be construed as to abrogate or derogate from, or to identify or define, any aboriginal title or interest of the First Nations or their citizens or any aboriginal or treaty right.

8.0 New Signatories

8.1 Other First Nations along the pipeline corridor that are not signatories to this Protocol may enter into this Protocol by signing and affixing an addendum to this Protocol.

Members to this Cooperation Protocol have signed this 10th day of September, 2003 at Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

First Nation	Chief	Signature
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations	Chief James Allen	
Kaska Dena Council	Chair, Dave Porter	
Kwanlin Dun First Nation	Chief Mike Smith	
Liard First Nation	A/Chief Sam Donnessey	
Ross River Dena Council	Chief Jack Caesar	
White River First Nation	Chief Angela Demit	

Addendum to Cooperation Protocol of the 10th day of September, 2003 and signed this ____ day of September, 2003 in Calgary, Alberta.

First Nation	Chief	Signature
Carcross Tagish First Nation	Chief Andy Carville	_____
Kluane First Nation	Chief Robert Dickson	_____
Ta'an Kwach'an Council	Chair, Bonnie Harpe	<i>Bonnie Harpe</i>
Teslin Tlingit Council	Chief Eric Morris	_____