RESOLUTION #1 – FROM YELLOWKNIFE TOURS LTD.

ENSURING SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE AURORA TOURISM OPERATIONS

Whereas the Northwest Territories is well known around the world for its spectacular Aurora, and is a significant part of the NWT tourism industry; and

Whereas NWT Tourism and the NWT Aurora tour operators have invested extensively in developing the NWT as the best destination in the world for Aurora viewing; and

Whereas tourism businesses in the NWT are required to have a Tourism Operators License issued from the Government of the Northwest Territories, and are required to follow the rules and regulations that are attached to that license; and

Whereas it is important for the reputation of the tourism industry of the NWT for visitors that choose to come to the NWT to view the Aurora feel safe, that they are with a trustworthy operator, and that there is a level of consistency and reliability they can rely on; and

Whereas the growing popularity of Aurora tourism has increased the number of tour vehicles travelling NWT highways during peak viewing periods, creating concerns about traffic congestion, the availability of safe pull-off areas, and the potential risks to visitors, tour operators and other highway users; and that unsafe practices or incidents could seriously compromise visitor safety and damage the international reputation of the Northwest Territories as a premier Aurora viewing destination.

Be it resolved that NWT Tourism advocate to the Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Industry, Tourism, and Investment (GNWT-ITI) that Aurora tour operations are being monitored for safe practices, that activities are being delivered by licensed tour operators, and that the regulations under the Tourism Act of the GNWT are being enforced.

Furthermore, that GNWT-ITI review criteria for Aurora tourism operator licensing including consideration of mandatory training requirements to ensure operators have the necessary knowledge and skills to deliver safe, high-quality services and enhance the experience of visitors from around the world.

And furthermore, that GNWT-ITI review the number of Aurora Tourism Operator Licenses issued in Yellowknife to assess whether the current number of licensed operators supports a sustainable, well-managed tourism industry while maintaining service quality, visitor safety, and a positive experience for visitors.

Moved by: Verda Law
Seconded by: Samantha Stuart



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Resolution Committee Chair Signature