**DRAFT DECLARATION**

\*drafted by the UArctic International Secretariat and the

University of Manitoba host committee for review by forum delegates.

**6th UArctic Rectors’ Forum, Winnipeg, Canada**

**"Pan-Arctic Cooperation: Regional Partnerships with Global Impact"**

The University of the Arctic’s overall goal is to create a strong, sustainable circumpolar region by empowering northerners and indigenous peoples through education, training and shared knowledge. Further, by partnering with other stakeholders in the Circumpolar North, including national and regional governments, indigenous peoples’ organizations, community leaders, and various actors in the private sector, UArctic has sought to ensure that the capacity, competence, and relevance of its members are recognized.

UArctic recognises that both world-class research and education can be done in the North, and that traditional knowledge as an integral part of research plays an important role in the northern knowledge base. Additionally, through its *Thematic Networks*, UArctic enhances collaboration among its members and external partners in specific areas of expertise. These thematic networks create a natural framework for the development of UArctic training, education, and mobility programs, as well as tools for knowledge generation and application. All in all, UArctic encourages development of activities that foster discussions, international experiences, and understanding of northern issues with global significance.

UArctic is a portal and forum through which education and research can be organized and delivered in the circumpolar region.  Given the diversity of institutions making up the UArctic, there is great asymmetry in the resources available for Arctic scholarship, a factor magnified by government and national priorities and policy.   Institutional collaboration and partnership development must continually adjust and reprioritize with changes in the climate, government policy, and resource extraction opportunities and concerns.

As leaders of higher education institutions, we, the delegates of the 6th UArctic Rectors’ Forum assembled in Winnipeg, Canada, from the 14th to 15th of November 2012, declare and express our shared views on the following:

* We share in the goal to build a circumpolar community that opens new academic and career opportunities for northerners and provides a deeper understanding of both the complex issues that the north is facing and the vital role that the north is playing in the overall development of the globe.
* In an effort to enhance opportunities for northern students to further their studies and gain practical work experience in another northern region; we ask national and regional governments in the Arctic to consider ways to fund a comprehensive Circumpolar Mobility Program, modelled around the experiences of UArctic’s *north2north Student Mobility* *Program*.
* We affirm our intent to work in interdisciplinary and inter-institutional partnerships to address pressing circumpolar concerns. We will embrace the diversity of our institutions and by combining our various strengths will achieve together what cannot be done in isolation.
* We urge governments to support our scientists in their efforts to understand the natural systems of the Arctic and the implications for resource extraction opportunities and concerns. Economic development must be predicated by knowledge and understanding of local environments and cultures.
* We will encourage and support our academic communities to partner with local government and community organizations to ensure scientific exploration is relevant, meaningful and inclusive of northerners’ priorities and interests.
* We will encourage and support our students at all levels to form partnerships and participate in learning experiences that transcend international borders within the circumpolar region. As part of the UArctic experience we encourage future Student Forum Organizers to adopt an academic theme for their meetings
* We receive the assessment and recommendations made by the 2012 UArctic Student Forum participants, and advise both the Board and Council of UArctic to review and give their full consideration of these recommendations (Annex 1).

Chaired by the President of the University of Manitoba, *David T. Barnard*

This declaration was adopted by the delegates of the 6th UArctic Rectors’ Forum

Wednesday, November 14th, 2012, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.