



# News Release

For Immediate Release

## Ontario and Nunavut honour deep-rooted partnership with new agreement

**Toronto, Ontario (August 3, 2023)** – Nunavut Premier P.J. Akeeagok and Ontario Premier Doug Ford today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to deepen cooperation on a wide range of joint priorities, including health care, transportation, infrastructure and Indigenous relations.

"Nunavut and Ontario have a long history as partners and I want to thank Premier Ford for his strong support of our territory," said Premier P.J. Akeeagok. "For many Nunavummiut, Ontario is a primary travel hub. Whether it's to access post-secondary education, obtain specialized health care, or for shopping and tourism, thousands of Nunavummiut head to our neighbouring province each year.

Through this memorandum of understanding, our governments can formalize this unique and longstanding relationship and jointly grow opportunities for the future. Partnership is a key priority of our *Katujjiluta* mandate, and I truly believe that Ontario can be a key partner in Canada's nation-building efforts in the North."

"I've always thought that Ontario should play a special role in supporting Canada's territories," said Premier Doug Ford. "This agreement will strengthen our deep ties and expand opportunities to collaborate on a number of important areas, benefiting the people of Nunavut and Ontario. I want to thank Premier Akeeagok for his partnership and friendship, as we work together to build stronger economies and healthier communities."

Through a mutually beneficial relationship, Nunavut provides economic opportunities to Ontario in exchange for goods and public services not available in Canada's North. Annual trade between Nunavut and Ontario is valued at over \$1 billion.

The MOU builds on this longstanding partnership and opens the door for increased bilateral cooperation on initiatives related to industrial and community infrastructure, education and training for skilled labour, and shared interests in sustainable access to natural resources, all while strengthening cultural ties between Ontario and Nunavut.

