

Canada and Russia Form Arctic Monitoring Network to Study Toxic Pollutants


Canada, in co-operation with the Russian Institute of Global Climate and Ecology, has established a Siberian monitoring station to study toxic air pollutants. The Siberian site, established by Canada at the mouth of the Lena River (73°N/127°E) in northern Russia, is part of an Arctic Monitoring Network that includes three other sites in northern Canada. Toxic air pollutants in the region are being measured to identify the extent and severity of pollution in the Arctic and the pollution's pathways into the region. The information obtained will help explain the occurrence of such man-made compounds as industrial pollutants, pesticides and toxic metals in remote northern regions where they are neither manufactured nor used.

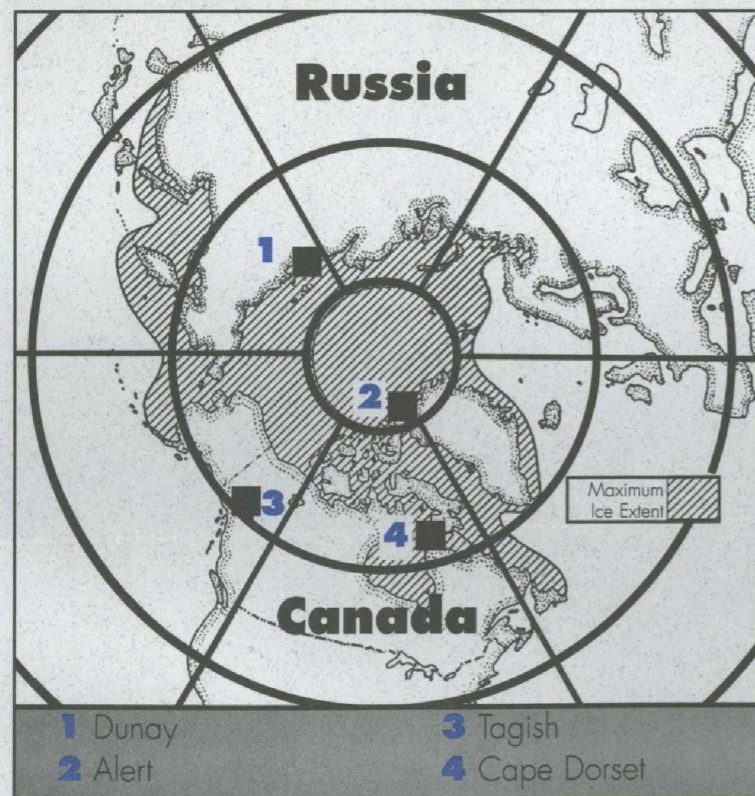
increases as one progresses up the food chain. This is giving rise to concentration in local foods at levels that generate concern for human health. However, despite the implications, local people have been advised to continue to consume these items, because of the nutritional benefits of fresh foods.

According to a 1992 study on Broughton Island, which is off the east coast of Baffin Island:

- 11.6 percent of women and 22.5 percent of men exceeded Health Canada's maximum acceptable daily intake of toxaphene, a pesticide and persistent organic pollutant that has never been routinely used in Canada; and
- 63 percent of children and 39 percent of women of childbearing age exceeded Health Canada's acceptable levels of PCBs in their blood.

With the linking of the Russian and Canadian sites, it will be possible to trace the air pollutants and study how they change as they move from the Russian coast, pass over the Arctic Ocean and arrive in the Canadian Arctic. Over a year of

continuous monitoring has been performed to date, and sample analysis is in progress. 



Recent Canadian studies have demonstrated that the concentration of persistent organic pollutants



International Conference on Population and Development

As citizens of an interdependent global community, our daily activities are inextricably linked to population change, natural resource use, the environment and economic and social development.

From September 5 to 13, 1994, Cairo will be the host city for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The ICPD will build on policies developed at the conferences on environment and development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) and human rights (Vienna, 1993) and lay the groundwork for the World Summit on Social Development (Copenhagen) and the Conference on Women (Beijing) to be held in 1995.


Two of the main environmental objectives of the ICPD are:


- ensuring that population, environmental and poverty eradication factors are integrated in sustainable development policies, plans and programs; and
- reducing both unsustainable consumption patterns and negative impacts of demographic factors on the environment.


It is expected that up to 17 000 persons will attend the conference, including representatives from some 1000 non-governmental organizations.




Facts and Stats


 Canada is a maritime nation. It has the longest coastline in the world (243 789 km, including islands), the second-largest continental shelf (3.7 million km²) and a total offshore area of more than 6.5 million km².

 Arctic waters are generally less biologically productive and contain less species diversity than the southern seas; however, highly productive ice-free areas, called *polynyas*, provide polar oases for overwintering whales, seals, polar bears and seabirds. Intense spring phytoplankton "blooms" attract several species of marine mammals, birds and fish in great abundance.

 The Earth's ocean basins and associated areas cover a surface of about 361 million km², or 71 percent of the Earth's surface.

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 The largest tides in the world, reaching 15 to 16 metres, occur in the Bay of Fundy, located between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The bay's tidal power was harnessed as early as the 17th century.

 In addition to their role in supplying a wealth of natural resources essential to our economy and society, the oceans off Canada's shores are important as corridors for seaborne trade and commerce, as sources of energy and non-renewable mineral resources, as recreational areas and as unique natural wildlife areas.

Sources: *The Times Atlas and Encyclopaedia of the Sea*

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