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CANADA ACCEDES TO THE ANTARCTIC TREATY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced Canada's accession to the Antarctic Treaty.

The Antarctic Treaty System provides a legal regime designed to freeze all territorial claims to Antarctica, preserve the delicate Antarctic environment and its living resources and promote the peaceful use and development of Antarctica.

In making the announcement, Mr. Clark said that Canada, as a leading Arctic state and a major player in polar science and technology, was taking its place among countries with a strong interest in Antarctic matters. "Canada wishes to endorse a Treaty that has created the world's sole, effective non-militarized area", he said. "Canada is acutely aware of the uniqueness of Antarctica and will, through accession to the Treaty, be better able to work for the protection of its sensitive environment and dependent ecosystems", he continued. Canada will also initiate the steps necessary to accede to the Conventions associated with the Treaty.

Canada has supported the Antarctic Treaty System in the past and has spoken out in its favour in the United Nations.

- 30 -

Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures