

satellite communications, establishment of marine parks, political devolution and native land claims.

In the past, Canadian policy in the Arctic has been characterized by fits and starts. That will no longer do. The government has made a firm commitment to the Arctic. Our response to the report of the Special Joint Committee on Canada's International Relations places unprecedented emphasis on the Northern dimension of Canada's foreign policy. In the coming months, the government will act to give further effect to the undertakings we have made, for example in continuing to modernize Canada's Northern defences and in promoting enhanced cooperation with circumpolar countries and Greenland. This government is determined to assert Canadian sovereignty in the North and to promote Canada as a key player in Arctic cooperation. The decision to proceed with construction of the icebreaker is proof of that resolve.