

every sector and every region — from East to West to North, from office workers to farm families,” she said. “We must ensure that every region, every province and territory, every community, and every citizen has a strong voice and can contribute to building our nation. To bring the benefits of our prosperity to all communities, whether urban, rural, Northern or remote.”

Canada is now well positioned to influence the Arctic Council into moving beyond its narrow mandate of environmental protection into one of promoting sustainable development. At the recent Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council at Barrow, Alaska (October 12-13, 2000), the Canadian-based Indigenous organizations, the Gwich'in Council International and the Arctic Athabaskan Council, joined the Inuit Circumpolar Council as Permanent Participants. Canada also provides funding to the Saami Council, representing the Sami Indigenous Peoples of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and the Russian Federation. Sustainable development is a key concern and interest of these groups.

The Northern Dimension of Canada's Foreign Policy

Wayne Lord, Director of the Aboriginal and Circumpolar Division of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, acknowledged that the Northern Dimension does not include everything recommended in the National Forum 1998 report. Canada made strategic choices about what it could and could not accomplish with limited resources, said Lord.

As a result of this focus, the Northern Dimension of Canada's Foreign Policy has four stated goals:

- to enhance the security and prosperity of Canadians, especially northerners and Aboriginal peoples;
- to assert and ensure the preservation of Canada's sovereignty in the North;
- to establish the Circumpolar region as a vibrant geopolitical entity integrated into a rules-based international system; and
- to promote the human security of northerners and the sustainable development of the Arctic.

He noted the Prime Minister's full support as shown in the 2001 Speech from the Throne, is a key factor in government departments and agencies promoting and implementing the Northern Dimension. Part of that will be including Canadian citizens in this process and working with the peoples and states of the Nordic countries, particularly with Russia and the European Union with its Nordic past, present and future chairs, Finland (1999), Sweden (2000) and Denmark (2001), respectively. This framework is now a cross-cutting theme for Foreign Affairs and International Trade units, Indian and Northern Affairs, the Canadian International Development Agency, Environment Canada and other federal government agencies and departments.

“It's this type of dialogue that's most important. We've had the support of our Ministers and that