

PREFACE

This report, *Toward A Canadian Antarctic Research Program*, has been accepted by the Board of Directors of the Canadian Polar Commission. It will form the basis and direction of the Commission's work with those Canadians dedicated to the development of an overall Canadian Antarctic Research Program.

It has long been recognized that while Canadians are at the forefront in a wide variety of Antarctic research initiatives—both in field work and in the support of science—our country does not have a national Antarctic research program. The Canadian Polar Commission believes that such a program must be developed, given the importance of this region of the world and the ever-increasing relationship between the Arctic and Antarctic.

The Commission, along with members of CARP, have set out a series of initiatives, including bipolar exchanges between Antarctic and Arctic scientists, that we believe will lead to the creation of a national Antarctic program. There are many research agencies and departments, both governmental and non-governmental, that we must involve in the process.

On behalf of Canada, the Canadian Polar Commission has applied for and been granted associate membership in SCAR, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research. We are confident that this report and the actions taken to date have us well-placed to meet our objective of a Canadian Antarctic research program and full membership in the Antarctic research community.

Whit Fraser
Chairman