

Ongoing Dialogue with Canadian and Circumpolar Civil Society

The announcement and implementation of the Northern Dimension of Canada's Foreign Policy does not mean the end of the dialogue with Canadians on circumpolar Arctic issues. The government believes that it is critical to maintain an ongoing process of interaction and discussion with interested stakeholders, as the policy implementation process unfolds and new questions and developments inevitably appear that can benefit from further consultation.

The government, under the leadership of the Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, is committed to maintaining this dialogue. In parallel, other venues for discussion and debate, as well as opportunities for organizations to make their views known to members of the Arctic Council, are welcomed and encouraged. Enlarging the circumpolar partnership is essential to the promotion of a greater extra-regional understanding and support for northern and circumpolar interests.

For example, the Northern Forum, consisting of 20 sub-national governments, largely from the Arctic Council states, and international NGOs such as the World Wildlife Fund for Nature and the International Union for Circumpolar Health, are encouraged to pursue their interventions on specific issues. In addition, SCFAIT, as well as the Parliamentarians of the Arctic region, should remain actively engaged, and should continue to focus Canadian thinking on our national interests in the circumpolar North.

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