

existed at that time by way of land claims agreements or subsequently acquired were included within the meaning of treaty rights. Since the mid-1970s, negotiation processes have been undertaken by the Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments, and Indigenous communities to settle long-standing land claims and to address aspirations to self-government.

The settlement of Indigenous communities' land claims and the negotiation of self-government arrangements over the past two decades have resulted in new governance institutions, systems, and processes intended to promote Indigenous cultural and social practices and engender greater participation in the management of lands, resources, and the environment.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND THE CANADIAN ARCTIC

Sustainable Development: The Past and the Future for Indigenous Communities of the Canadian Arctic

Sustainable use of natural resources — fish, forests, wildlife — is a way of life for the Indigenous communities of the Arctic. Indigenous peoples continue to rely on the sustainable use of renewable resources for their cultural, physical, and economic sustenance. This dependence puts them at great risk from industrial and agricultural pollutants that find their way into the Arctic food chain and from campaigns opposed to the harvesting of wildlife and the marketing of wildlife products. While Indigenous communities of northern Canada are exploring other avenues leading to economic development, at the same time they are seeking to balance these emerging opportunities with their desire to maintain values and traditional lifestyles attached to the land and wildlife. Innovative land and resource management regimes established through land claims, new self-government and public government arrangements, and a growing information base are all converging in northern Canada to help preserve and protect the relatively unspoiled northern environment.

The Changing Arctic

The Arctic is now recognized as a barometer for the global environment. As a sink for transboundary pollutants, it accumulates