

# PROTECTING CANADA AND CANADIANS

respond to asymmetric threats. For instance, an attack using weapons of mass destruction on one of Canada's many ports of entry would not only threaten the safety of those who work or live in the vicinity, but also reverberate throughout North America. Similarly, although we no longer face the threat of Soviet bombers in Canadian airspace, terrorist groups may be seeking to acquire the means to strike using not only hijacked airliners, but also, possibly, crop dusters, drones, and even cruise missiles fired from container ships or other platforms off our coasts. The Government must improve how it gathers, tracks, analyzes, uses and shares information, particularly as it relates to the huge volume of air, land and sea activity within our areas of jurisdiction, and be better prepared to respond quickly and effectively to incidents. National Defence will play a critical role in these efforts.

The demands of sovereignty and security for the Government could become even more pressing as activity in the North continues to rise. The mining of diamonds, for example, is expanding the region's economy and spurring population growth. Air traffic over the high Arctic is increasing, and climate change could lead to more commercial vessel traffic in our northern waters. These developments will not result in the type of military threat to the North that we saw during the Cold War, but they could have long-term security implications. Although the primary responsibility for dealing with issues such as sovereignty and environmental protection, organized crime, and people and drug smuggling rests with other departments, the Canadian Forces will be affected in a number of ways. There will, for example, be a greater requirement for surveillance and control, as well as for search and rescue. Adversaries could be tempted to take advantage of new opportunities unless we are prepared to deal with asymmetric threats that are staged through the North.

Pangnirtung Fjord, Nunavut—The frigate HMCS *Montréal* during Exercise NARWHAL.

## THE CANADIAN FORCES AND PROTECTING CANADA: A NEW APPROACH

In the face of these challenges, the first priority of our military will be the defence of Canada. While the Canadian Forces will continue to serve Canadians in familiar roles, including search and rescue, disaster relief and support to other government departments such as Fisheries and Oceans and Environment Canada, they will also contribute to the Government's overall strategy to protect Canadians against the threat of terrorism. As part of this strategy, the Forces will:

- work more closely with civil authorities (at the federal, provincial and local levels) to prevent serious threats to Canada from materializing, countering these threats if prevention fails, and helping mitigate the consequences of an attack should one occur;
- increase their efforts to ensure the sovereignty and security of our territory, airspace and maritime approaches, including in the Arctic;
- improve the gathering, analyzing, integrating and use of information gained from a combination of maritime, land, air and space surveillance systems;
- dedicate specific resources—people, training and equipment—to enhance their ability to carry out domestic roles; and

