

Continued from page 1

- oversee and coordinate the established programs of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy;
- develop and coordinate a sustainable development program; and
- disseminate information, encourage education and promote interest in Arctic-related issues.

Canada will chair and provide the secretariat of the Council for the first two years. Canada's Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, Mary Simon, will be the chair and the Senior Arctic Official for Canada.

The Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy is an effective international program of cooperation to preserve and protect the northern environment. The AEPS, which will be

coordinated through the Arctic Council, has five components: Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program; Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna; Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment; Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response; and Sustainable Development and Utilization. ❁

## Canadian Cooperation in the Russian Arctic

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has funded over \$2 million worth of projects for the Russian Arctic since 1991, with another \$6 million worth of projects currently under way. The goal of these projects is to introduce sound environmental management and to strengthen the role of indigenous peoples of the North in the planning and management of their regions.

Many of the projects directly support the Arctic Council's activities or fall under the related Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS).

For example, Bovar-Concord International of Toronto is planning to set up an air-sampling station and is training Russian scientists to measure Arctic contaminants to standards required for Russia's participation in the circumpolar Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP). Other projects promote environmental protection and sound engineering for waste treatment in the North or for the management of natural resources, such as water, hydrocarbons or minerals.

Under another CIDA-sponsored project, Canadian indigenous peoples are sharing their experience with their Russian counterparts on how to gain a strong voice in political decisions at the national, regional and local levels. Working with Canada's Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference is providing input to the Russian federal government on Russia's new policies for indigenous and northern affairs. This project is also directly helping the Russian aboriginal representatives to participate in the Arctic Council.

CIDA is also supporting the efforts of a joint public-private team led by the territorial government of Canada's Northwest Territories in assisting Russians in Yakutia with modern cold-climate building technologies.

Canada's cooperation with Russia shares Canadian experience and expertise. Development will only be sustainable if governments, industry and northern peoples have the right tools, the right

techniques, and the ability to use them. These projects aim to provide just that in the Russian Arctic. ❁

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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (SXCI)  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0G2  
Canada

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## Declaration on the Establishment of the Arctic Council

*On September 19, 1996, the eight circumpolar countries signed the Declaration on the Establishment of the Arctic Council, summarized here.*

The signatories desire to provide for regular inter-governmental consideration and consultation on Arctic issues ensuring the well-being of the inhabitants of the Arctic, sustainable development and the protection of the environment.

The Declaration establishes an Arctic Council as a high-level intergovernmental forum which is made up of the eight Arctic states — Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States of America.

The Declaration establishes the Arctic Council as a means to:

- promote cooperation and coordination of action on common Arctic issues, particularly sustainable development and environmental protection;
- oversee and coordinate the established programmes of the Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS);
- oversee and coordinate a sustainable development programme; and
- disseminate information, encourage education and promote interest in Arctic-related issues.

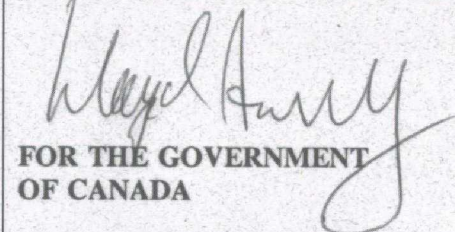
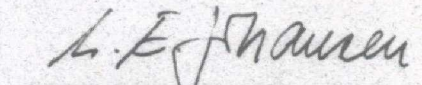
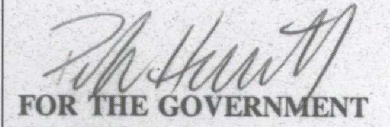
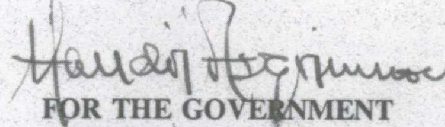
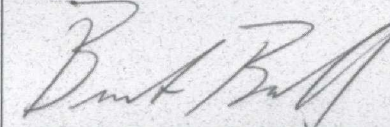

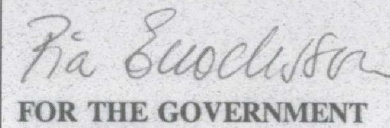
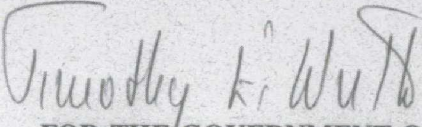
The Declaration names each of the eight Arctic states as Members and three Permanent Participants - the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the

Saami Council, and the Association of Indigenous Minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation\*. The Declaration allows for further Permanent Participant status for other Arctic indigenous groups and Observer status for other non-Arctic countries, and inter-governmental and inter-parliamentary and non-governmental organizations.

The Declaration establishes that:

- the Council will meet at least biennially and all decisions will be by consensus by the Members; and
- the hosting of meetings of the Arctic Council, including secretariat support function will rotate among the Arctic States. ❁

\* See article on page 4.

 <b>FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA</b>	 <b>FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK</b>
 <b>FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND</b>	 <b>FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND</b>
 <b>FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF NORWAY</b>	 <b>FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION</b>
 <b>FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN</b>	 <b>FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b>