

The Northern Dimension of Canada's Foreign Policy - Key Objectives

As was often pointed out in discussions with Canadians and key circumpolar partners, Canada brings a number of important assets to the circumpolar table:

- our experience in developing northern institutions, community building, and working with Aboriginal peoples and other Northerners;
- an acknowledged expertise in northern science and environmental technology;
- a cutting-edge capability in telecommunications and information technology;
- an innovative approach to governance and natural resource management in the North; and
- a wealth of experience in co-operating with Russia on Arctic affairs.

The Arctic is an area of international relations in which we can make a difference, in which we can bring added value.

A far-sighted Canadian foreign policy will provide the means and the opportunity to assert our role as a bridge builder.

Our active involvement in circumpolar issues will contribute to the consolidation of our interests in the region.

Given these assets, and given the convergence of territories, interests and events in the circumpolar region, a unique opportunity exists for bringing to bear Canada's northern identity and expertise, and translating them into broader influence. The Arctic is an area of international relations in which we can make a difference, in which we can bring added value. A far-sighted Canadian foreign policy will provide the means and the opportunity to assert our role as a bridge builder. Our active involvement in circumpolar issues will contribute to the consolidation of our interests in the region.

In keeping with the international and domestic contexts, our experience, capacity and perceived role, and taking into account the advice and suggestions made during the consultative process, it has been determined that the Northern Dimension of Canada's Foreign Policy should have four overarching objectives:

1. to enhance the security and prosperity of Canadians, especially northerners and Aboriginal peoples;
2. to assert and ensure the preservation of Canada's sovereignty in the North;
3. to establish the Circumpolar region as a vibrant geopolitical entity integrated into a rules-based international system; and
4. to promote the human security of northerners and the sustainable development of the Arctic.