

## 1998 National Forum on Canada's Circumpolar Relations

Iqaluit - May 28, 1998

### Policy Recommendations

#### Should Canada develop a northern foreign policy

Participants recommended that Canada:

should develop a northern foreign policy;

should develop this policy in consultation with residents of northern Canada and not in isolation from them;

should develop policy that is in accord with the needs, aspirations, cultures, history, and past and current initiatives of northern peoples generally and Nunavut residents, particularly Inuit, specifically.

#### How Should Canada Develop Its Foreign Policy?

Participants strongly recommended that Canada include northerners as participants in northern policy development through a process that recognizes that:

we need foreign policy from the north about the north, developed in the north by northerners;

we need and can provide a Northern/circumpolar aspect to the creation of visionary northern components of foreign policy. In order to do so, we need funding to prepare and an ongoing role in policy development.

Participants also discussed various formats for the consideration of northern foreign policy development. Suggestions include:

**The Arctic Council:** A number of participants felt that the Arctic Council should be the venue for developing and implementing foreign policy, and expressed a number of suggestions in relation to this:

needed are fora for Northern organizations to provide input; ideas include:

a northern policy position within External Affairs;

a forum/process for Inuit leaders to be gathered together to be policy makers and assist the Arctic Council to develop policy that reflects Inuit needs;