

north. Enhanced human rights for northern peoples will remain a central focus of Canada's northern foreign policy.

Greater Extra-Regional Understanding of and Support for Arctic Interests

Management of the Arctic's problems depends heavily on co-operation from countries outside the region. Also, whether they realize it or not, countries outside the region depend on the solution of key Arctic problems. Thus, Canada and its Arctic neighbours have an interest in fostering understanding and building partnerships with the world outside for their efforts to solve the region's problems and to realize its potential. An important element of Canada's northern foreign policy will be to develop constructive links between the Arctic and the rest of the world.

Rationalization and Strengthening of Arctic Science Co-operation

Science contributes to the development of a comprehensive knowledge basis that is essential to strategies for environmental protection, sustainable development, understanding climate change, and tackling many other major problems in the Arctic. For this reason, Canada has taken steps to improve its own contribution to Arctic science, including developing a Federal Strategy on Northern Science and Technology and recognizing the importance of the Polar Continental Shelf Project (PCSP). It is also committed to international co-operation in polar science, and plays an active role in the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and many other important programs. Canada will continue to participate in and foster Arctic science co-operation.

Strengthened Parliamentary Participation in Circumpolar Policy Formulation

The experience of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR) has shown that parliamentarians' involvement can be an effective support for democratic policy development in the region, spurring governments to action, facilitating policy exchanges among stakeholders, acting as agents of political accountability, and so on. Canada recognizes and supports parliamentarians' involvement in support of circumpolar co-operation.

NORTHERN SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY

With the ending of the Cold War, discussions of security have come increasingly to deal with economic, environmental, cultural and social security. In the circumpolar world, these civil issues have assumed growing importance. Despite this fundamental change, Canada, like any other country, retains important responsibilities in preserving its sovereignty and responding to any threats to its national security. Canada's northern foreign policy will include a number of core objectives relating to these "traditional" aspects of security.

Exercise Canada's Full Sovereignty in the North

Although the ending of the Cold War has seen a discernible waning of public attention to the threats to Arctic sovereignty that made headlines in the 1970s and 1980s, Canada has continued a variety of sovereignty support activities, such as patrols by long-range patrol aircraft, the Ranger