

Protocol specify that input from SCAR is required in the decision-making process. Thus, at the international level, there are close links between governance and science in Antarctica, and it is suggested that this pattern should be mirrored at the national level. Scientific research continues to be the most significant activity on the continent.

SCAR has several affiliated Working Groups and Groups of Specialists, two of which are of special interest: the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP) and its sub-group, the Standing Committee on Antarctic Logistics and Operations (SCALOP). Both groups, and particularly COMNAP, are important forums for the exchange of information about Antarctic operations. However, considering the current level of Canadian involvement in Antarctica, as well as Canada's Associate Member status in SCAR, it seems premature to seek membership in COMNAP or SCALOP.

Upon joining SCAR, Canada declared its intention to become a full member as soon as possible, (i.e., at the next SCAR meeting in August 1996). This would involve presenting a national Antarctic research program acceptable to the members of SCAR. In view of the resources Canada currently allocates to scientific activities in Antarctica, it is doubtful that it would be accepted as a Full Member; therefore, it seems prudent to delay the application until the next SCAR meeting (in 1998) or later.

### **3. ANTARCTIC CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

This section briefly reviews some of the factors to be considered in developing a Canadian Antarctic Research Program. Some relate to recent developments in Antarctica; others deal with domestic Canadian situations. Although there are some overlaps, the factors are presented in two groups: those related to the pursuit of polar science and those related to implementation of the Environmental Protocol.

#### **Polar Science**

##### *Bipolar Studies*

Canada occupies a large part of the northern polar region and is therefore well placed for participating in bipolar studies of similar phenomena occurring in the polar regions of both the northern and southern hemispheres. The distribution of stratospheric ozone and the effects this