

**Roundtable on Northern Foreign Policy:
Feedback and Look Ahead**

February 5, 2001

Yukon College (Whitehorse, Yukon)

On February 5, 2001, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development convened a community meeting to follow-up the 1998 National Forum and the June 8, 2000 release of the federal government's foreign policy paper, "The Northern Dimension of Canada's Foreign Policy." The roundtable brought together academics, Board of Governors of the University of the Arctic, conservationists, government officials, Indigenous organizations, non-government organizations, and Yukon College to look at Canada's relations and links with its Arctic neighbours, the University of the Arctic, and regional aspects of U.S.-Canada relations.

Key items emerging from the discussion included:

- The need for advancing transboundary civil society relations and cooperation to meet new challenges, such as resource exploitation in the Arctic National Wildlife Range (ANWR).
- The growing confidence and outward-looking perspective of First Nations which are actively looking for social, political and economic ties across borders, in Yukon, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alaska, and Russia, among others.
- The need to include meaningfully civil society and Indigenous Peoples in the discussions and decisions about the construction of pipelines.
- The Canadian government desire to expand the mandate of the Arctic Council to look at social issues through the lens of sustainable development, rather than just environmental protection (see Appendix A).

Background

Sally Webber, President of Yukon College and Julie Rechel, Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, co-chaired the meeting of 33 people, including two connected by telephone from the northern Yukon community of Old Crow. Also attending were representatives of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Environment Canada, Yukon Territory government, and Foreign Affairs and International Trade. (See attached list of participants and agenda.)

In the 2001 Speech from the Throne, Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson mentioned the North four times: "An innovative economy is one where the benefits of new ideas are shared by