

Statement

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Déclaration

Secrétaire
d'État aux
Affaires
extérieures

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CANADA HOSTS CIRCUMPOLAR ENVIRONMENT MEETING

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that Canada will host a meeting of high-level officials from all circumpolar nations on April 18-23, 1990 to discuss Arctic environmental issues.

"The Arctic ecology is fragile, suffering more and more from the unintended consequences of the world's industrial development," stated Mr. Clark. "The Arctic is an important part of the heritage of each nation at this meeting. Canada is committed to sustainable development in the Arctic, and to circumpolar cooperation on critical environmental problems."

The Yellowknife meeting will be the second occasion that the circumpolar countries have gathered together to discuss Arctic issues. At the first such meeting, held in 1989 at Rovaniemi, Finland, the circumpolar nations agreed to prepare scientific and legal studies of specific environmental issues. In Yellowknife government experts will assess the research done to date. The results of their studies will form the basis of an agenda for a ministerial level meeting at a later date.

This meeting in the Canadian north demonstrates Canada's leadership in circumpolar cooperation. "The Yellowknife meeting will be an important step forward in increasing our scientific knowledge of threats to Arctic ecology, and in focusing collective international efforts on effective solutions," concluded Mr. Clark.

The meeting has been organized in close collaboration with the Government of the Northwest Territories.