



“Because many of the pollutants that invade the circumpolar region originate elsewhere, no solution will be possible without international support, even if all eight Arctic Council members could reach accord on the need for specific measures. Which is why environmental degradation is unlikely to prompt broad international action unless it can be demonstrated that the consequences are both dire and will affect populations far outside the Arctic.”

Multilateral Relations

Policy Options

- 3.1 Canada's northern population is small; this means it has limited influence. Canada should focus on promoting cooperation amongst all circumpolar countries so that they may learn from one another and strengthen their collective voice to the south. (Iqaluit)
- 3.2 Canada should promote more direct contact among circumpolar nations via northern routes. Examples used included the recent Canada Post agreement with Greenland, and the suggestion that travel from the NWT to Alaska (or the Yukon) should not have to be routed via southern Canada. (Iqaluit)
- 3.3 Canada should share its self government and land claims models and experiences that may be implemented in other Circumpolar countries, and promote further the exchanges of Aboriginal groups and delegations within Arctic countries. (Iqaluit)
- 3.4 The federal government should assess northern sovereignty and Arctic security with a view to working in joint responsibility with other polar countries on common problems and interests e.g. wildlife and pollution. In addition, participants suggested that, as Canada has no ability to police its waters and exert sovereignty, it needs to develop a capacity to support developments in the north and ensure sovereignty. (Iqaluit)
- 3.5 Canada should enforce regulation in other areas as well e.g. tourists trespass on Inuit lands and archaeological sites without permission, despite the existence of international standards for tourism. The presence of an increasing number of cruise ships is having a significant impact on the environment. (Iqaluit)
- 3.6 Canada should work to achieve an international framework agreement on Arctic development that incorporates conditions for appropriate levels of subsidiarity and which encourages the greatest degree of cooperation for sharing best practices. (Edmonton)