



*“The difficulty, perhaps especially for Canada, where the north has the least domestic weight among any of the Arctic eight, is that any “circumpolar” dimension in foreign policy will require full force of the national government. It is unlikely to enjoy that backing unless that dimension is seen as directly relevant to all Canadians.”*

## Connecting Domestic and Foreign Policy

### Policy Options

- 9.1 Canada should promote the positive aspects of the Canadian north to other Canadians and peoples of the world. This will be a contrast to what appears to be reliance on issue dominated publicity that focuses attention on crises situations, such as contaminant migration, or on resource use conflicts, such as the debate around the 10-02 lands. (Whitehorse)
- 9.2 Participants noted in diverse ways the importance of the relationship of northerners with each other, both nationally and in the circumpolar context, and with southerners of all nations. The importance of educating southerners to northern issues and realities, both those specific to the north and those that may have major impact on an unaware South, underlay many comments about education, barriers, etc. (Iqaluit)
- 9.3 Many felt that, by strengthening northern ties, we can increase the collective northern voice. Thus a strong voice coming from the circumpolar north may be able to exert a stronger impact on southern-dominated policy development in the various nations involved. (Iqaluit)
- 9.4 Canada needs to seriously address interjurisdictional problems. It is not possible to divorce domestic policy from foreign policy issues. The Nunavut Land Claim Agreement contains areas in which interjurisdictional activities and negotiations are required, and which must be recognized in foreign policy creation. (Iqaluit)
- 9.5 In its foreign policy, the Government of Canada must give an “objective” picture of conditions for Aboriginal peoples in Canada and avoid projecting an idealized image of their way of life. Problems do exist in our country and it is important that this be recognized. (Quebec)
- 9.6 In order for Canada to play a leadership role, it is recommended that Canadian foreign policy reflect consistency with domestic values in policy initiatives. (Whitehorse)
- 9.7 Canada’s national policies should form the basis of our international policies. (Edmonton)