

9. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report has reviewed recent developments in Antarctica and how Canada has dealt with these developments, particularly as they affect the establishment of a Canadian Antarctic Research Program (CARP). A series of factors to consider in that process is outlined, some dealing with international developments, others with domestic Canadian concerns. The signing of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and its implications are considered the most significant factors.

The current CARP Newsletter should be renamed and called the Canadian Antarctic Research Network (CARN) Newsletter to more accurately reflect its functions. The mandate of CARPEX should be modified to cover all Antarctic issues of concern to Canada, and a work program for CARPEX is outlined to lay the foundation for formulating a Canadian Antarctic Research Program.

Ways of obtaining financial resources to support CARPEX activities, including the completion of the work program, are discussed and possible sources of financial support for the research program itself are considered. Depending on the nature of the final program, granting councils, government departments, and the private sector are the most probable sources. Private foundations might also be approached for support for some of the proposed activities. An application for full membership in SCAR should be delayed until the new program has been designed and at least a significant part of the necessary funding has been secured. This will be a challenge, as financial constraints have curtailed many programs, but these constraints must never become easy excuses for failing to explore new ideas and approaches to issues.

The total amounts needed for the CARP are not considered major—the low level of interest in Antarctic issues may prove to be the greater challenge. Lobbying among bureaucrats and politicians on behalf of the CARP would be required. Efforts to develop an Antarctic constituency should be considered, especially in view of the number of Canadians who visit Antarctica as tourists each year.

Finally, some policy issues are addressed. Clarification of the policy of the Government of Canada with regard to its treaty obligations in Antarctica, especially *vis-à-vis* ratification of the Environmental Protocol, would be most helpful in formulating the CARP. The CARP, in turn, would assist in implementing the policy, because science is involved in almost every Antarctic issue.