

RELATION TO DOMESTIC NORTHERN POLICY

- the introduction to the policy needs to discuss the inter-relationship between domestic policy and northern foreign policy.
- while Canada doesn't have and isn't likely to establish a comprehensive domestic policy for the north, it does have a variety of statements (ie. Gathering Strength) that provide authoritative points of reference and contact for Canada's northern foreign policy.
- 20 years ago, the absence of a comprehensive domestic policy might have made articulation of a foreign policy impossible. Today, the line between domestic and foreign policy has blurred significantly, not only in Canada, but in all countries that are engaged globally. Issues that once were regarded as domestic now very often can only be tackled through a combination of domestic and external action. This new state of affairs should be recognized explicitly in the policy introduction. The absence of a comprehensive northern policy should therefore not be regarded or portrayed as a major weakness from the perspective of the foreign policy.
- the achievement of a northern foreign policy will in fact likely help focus and advance Canada's domestic northern policies in functional areas where it is most needed. This salutary inter-relationship should be recognized in the policy paper.
- the relationship between domestic and international northern policies is particularly important in the area of science and research. Rationalizing and strengthening Canada's own domestic polar science effort would enable it to play a better focused and more effective role in circumpolar science cooperation.
- in asserting through a new northern foreign policy its intent to foster certain values in the circumpolar north (ie. civility, human rights, environmental stewardship, etc.) Canada must have an eye to its own performance in these areas at home. The UN's recent report critical of Canada's domestic human rights record was noted in this regard.

POLICY THEMES -- GENERAL

- the policy should state clearly that the themes are inter-related, like a tapestry.
- northern science needs to figure much more prominently in the policy, as a specific area where the federal government has a leading role to play. Thus, a new theme needs to be created, entitled something like "Scientific Research and Traditional Knowledge" to accommodate research activities that relate to several of the existing themes.