



*“No Canadian foreign policy is complete and rightly so without the question of human rights being raised. Russia’s treatment of minorities, especially aboriginal peoples, is variously judged from inadequate to appalling. Some of them are on the verge of extinction.”*

## Human Rights

### Policy Options

- 8.1 The government should make respect for individual and collective rights one of the pillars of its circumpolar foreign policy, while taking into account the cultural distinctiveness of each country. (Quebec)
- 8.2 Canada should promote cultural exchanges of Canadian civil rights and demonstrate how beneficial these rights may be in other Circumpolar Regions. (Yellowknife)
- 8.3 Canada should expose discrepancies on human rights in international forums ie: Arctic Council, UN. (Yellowknife)
- 8.4 Respect for human rights should be integrated directly into development or scientific and technical cooperation projects. (Quebec)
- 8.5 The framework for foreign policy on Circumpolar issues should be based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its covenants. Pivotal concepts in informing the policy for the circumpolar region include the self-determination of circumpolar peoples, civil society and peace building. In particular, there must be an adequate allocation of resources to promote human development and security including health care, education and social development. (Edmonton)
- 8.6 The Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be used as a guide to define a concept of self-determination, in which there are full partnerships with the peoples of the circumpolar region. (Edmonton)
- 8.7 Since this year is the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a statement that has already been accepted, it can be used as a concept not to impose but to influence the acceptance of the self-determination of Indigenous and other circumpolar peoples. It must be made clear what the context of such a concept includes. Since self-determination is a heavily charged concept that creates confusion among policy makers, it should be defined in partnership with northern peoples and should be defined with the exclusion of secession. It was agreed that this would not likely pose a problem for northern communities in Canada as there is a general agreement among circumpolar peoples that the Canadian arctic is a part of the Canadian nation-state. (Edmonton)
- 8.8 The Government of Canada must promote the respect of human rights in its circumpolar foreign policy. (Quebec)