

## **ACTIVITIES OF OTHER FOREIGN POLICY ACTORS**

- as mentioned earlier, the policy should acknowledge clearly that the federal government is not the only actor actively involved in Canada's international Arctic relations, and clearly affirm the value of the participation of other actors.
- the paper's introduction should include a discussion of the roles of other foreign policy actors (ie. NGOs, corporations, territorial and provincial governments, land claims organizations and aboriginal governments), and of the paradoxical trends of globalization and the growing involvement of local and regional actors in international relations.
- there are some areas where the federal government will have clear responsibility for taking the lead (ie. research on global issues, or where treaty making is involved). Yet even in these areas, civil society has an important role to play in providing impetus for action, and this role should be recognized and affirmed in the policy paper.
- the paper should recognize that other foreign policy actors, ie. territorial and provincial governments, northern aboriginal organizations, will not always have the same objectives or strategies as the federal government, and that there is a need for ongoing dialogue and cooperation.
- in this fast emerging context where state governments have lost their former monopoly over foreign relations, a key element of the new northern foreign policy should be to indicate where the federal government is prepared to assist non-state actors in pursuing agreed national foreign policy objectives.

## **IMPLEMENTING THE NEW POLICY**

- federal government departments involved in the north need to improve cooperation to ensure effective coordination in implementing the new northern foreign policy.
- consideration should be given to creating a domestic forum or process through which key stakeholders in Canada's north can regularly be consulted on northern foreign policy issues.
- there is a need to broaden and deepen the federal government's understanding, support and leadership on northern foreign policy. It is particularly important to expand and improve the level of expertise on northern issues within DFAIT. The problems of amassing northern expertise presented by the foreign service's rotation system, and of providing adequate northern orientation of new officers in the Circumpolar and Aboriginal Affairs Division, should be reviewed.
- the level of federal government representation at important Arctic negotiations such as those dealing with transboundary pollution needs to be raised. On an issue as important to the north as POPs, leadership of the kind accorded the landmines treaty should be provided.