

starting with the preservation of the fragile ecology of the North. Surveillance, enforcement of laws and regulations, and the co-ordination of emergency-preparedness systems will be critical.

In translating the new reality of Canada's North into foreign policy, we need to move beyond the vague, symbolic visions of the past. We must assess the values and interests emerging from the North's renewal process, and translate them into sources of international influence. This will require the involvement of Aboriginal and territorial authorities in the implementation of a northern foreign policy. It will also require a commitment to strengthening the widespread but poorly supported research network that exists throughout Canada, which has important expertise, knowledge and experience that must be harnessed more effectively in support of the Northern Dimension of Canada's Foreign Policy. There must also be the recognition that effective linkages between research and policy analysis networks must extend beyond Canada, reaching out to similar networks within the circumpolar region. Intrinsic to this research and policy analysis network will be the recognition and integration of traditional knowledge.

### The International Context - an Enlarging Circumpolar Partnership

The circumpolar North is not homogeneous. The heterogeneity of development levels, interests and visions among circumpolar countries, coupled with the fact that the region is one of the world's richest in natural resources, may increase the potential for tension in the North. On the other hand, recognition of the challenges facing the region has led the eight Arctic countries to move forward across a broad front over the past decade to begin building a circumpolar community of interests. From both economic and political perspectives, the North has the potential to become a significant factor in world affairs.

The establishment of the Arctic Council in 1996 marked the growing maturity of the circumpolar region. Canada recognized that it shared many common challenges, problems and opportunities with its Arctic neighbours, so it sought to expand co-operation through the Arctic Council to create a circumpolar community that would be self-aware and able to work together to solve its problems regionally and globally. Progress toward these goals should contribute to the formation of a strong institutional framework that encourages greater co-operation among northern governments, Aboriginal peoples, industry, and

*Recognition of the challenges facing the region has led the eight Arctic countries to move forward across a broad front over the past decade to begin building a circumpolar community of interests. From both economic and political perspectives, the North has the potential to become a significant factor in world affairs.*