

- there should be attention paid to what kinds of issues may usefully be consulted on.
- care should be taken to ensure that all sectors are adequately represented in the consultative process (business and labour tend to be under-represented).
- strengthening awareness of the north, northern issues and Canadian circumpolar interests and activities among all Canadians is a vital objective of the consultative process.
- the goals under this theme concerned with helping northerners prepare for consultations and with developing northern foreign policy specialists require more resources.

PRIORITY-SETTING

- it was considered to be quite appropriate for the new policy to encompass the full range of Canada's northern foreign policy interests, as reflected in the extensive list of policy goals. The only way to create a living document that will have a long shelf-life is for it to be inclusive. For this reason, there should not be an effort to set priorities among the various goals in the policy document itself.
- however, it was also felt that Ministers must be presented with a manageable number of priorities. This could be accommodated by presenting priorities in a parallel document or some other manner that would not require narrowing the breadth of the policy itself.
- it also needs to be acknowledged that the resources needed to implement the full range of goals will not be available, certainly not all at once. For this reason as well, the policy itself must encompass the full range of goals while making clear the need to establish priorities at the operational level.
- many of the goals contained in the *Goals Paper* are already being pursued under existing government programs. This fact needs to be reflected in the policy document.
- in undertaking the northern foreign policy initiative, the Minister of Foreign Affairs indicated that the new policy should go beyond what was contained in the Government response to the Standing Committee's report. This needs to be reflected in the policy document.
- the *Consultation Paper* and *Goals Paper* need to be reviewed to weed out any objectives or goals that do not deal with issues with a genuine foreign policy dimension. In doing this, one criterion could be that international action should provide value-added to the advancement of Canada's policy interests and objectives.