



“For many aboriginal peoples, sustainable development has been a central tenet of their lives and cultures for tens of thousands of years. Unsustainable development, therefore, is a direct threat to their very existence as peoples.”

Pollutants / Contaminants / Environment

Policy Options

- 6.1 Canada should consider environmental concerns as basic to the development of foreign policy, and should work with countries where the contaminants originate, and ask other countries to suspend use of contaminants. Canada should also ensure that money is set aside for reclamation when relevant. (Iqaluit)
- 6.2 Canada should encourage and support dialogue and exchanges between diverse interest groups in the circumpolar region in the areas of sustainable development, renewable resources management, and business development. (Yellowknife)
- 6.3 Canada must take the lead on ensuring joint cooperation between richer circumpolar countries to ensure funds are available for training and the technology necessary for environmental clean-up. (Yellowknife)
- 6.4 Canada should seriously consider the long term interest of Canadians to help clean up the Russian Arctic since pollutants have no frontier. In addition it might provide opportunities for Canadian firms and industry to become involved in the clean-up processes. These actions cannot be imposed on the Russian population, but need to be planned and carried out in cooperation with them. The Arctic Council was considered to be an important forum to address related health issues. (Edmonton, Quebec)
- 6.5 Canada must ensure that an exchange of information be made between circumpolar countries on environmental impact processes monitoring and prevention. (Yellowknife)
- 6.6 Canada must promote policies to reduce airborne contaminants and global warming impacts. (Yellowknife)
- 6.7 Canada must be a leader by example in environmental “friendliness”.(Yellowknife)
- 6.8 Canada must give more decision making power to the Arctic Monitoring and assessment program. (Yellowknife)
- 6.9 Canada should establish partnerships with other governments as a way to ensure that research knowledge is shared and that the research is appropriate and required. (Iqaluit)
- 6.10 Governments have to make financial commitments to both short and long term research. (Iqaluit)
- 6.11 Canada should aim to integrate research and communications to ensure information about planned research, and results from previous research, get back to the communities. This integration would help convince funding bodies, nationally and internationally, to continue their support. (Iqaluit)