

land claim settlement revenues, such as Canada's Makivik Corporation or the Nunasi Development Corporation, have a great deal of experience to share in this regard. There is a pressing need for a comprehensive examination by the circumpolar countries of creative approaches to sustainable development financing.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

As the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs observed in *Canada and the Circumpolar World*, "Protection of the environment is the *sine qua non* of sustainability." It therefore lies at the heart of Canada's entire approach to northern sustainable development and foreign policy. Effective policy and action in support of environmental protection are critical to Canada's northern residents, whose health, livelihoods and cultural survival continue to be closely tied to the environment. Further, as a world commons, the Arctic is of enormous importance to the global environment, underlining the absolute necessity of international co-operation for its protection. The interdependent and sensitive nature of the northern ecology means that activities undertaken in many global forums are critical to sustaining the integrity of the north.

For many years, Canada has sought through its own legislation to protect the Arctic environment from domestic sources of pollution. Recognizing the broader nature of the problem, though, it has placed particular emphasis on co-operative global and regional protection efforts. The farthest-reaching of these efforts has been the Rovaneimi Process, through which Canada and its Arctic neighbours created the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS), now a central program of the Arctic Council. To implement and build upon the commitments made through the AEPS constitutes the core of Canada's foreign policy in regard to Arctic environmental protection. This includes the following core objectives.

### Early Warning of Significant Environmental Threats to Canada's Arctic

Canada has launched the Northern Contaminants Program, which has given it the world's most comprehensive data on Arctic contaminants. Internationally, it has played a leading role in the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP), which measures pollutants and assesses their effects on the Arctic's environment and on human health. Canada has also played a leading part in developing environmental impact assessment (EIA) standards for the Arctic, including through the AEPS' *Arctic Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment*. Effective assessment of threats to the Arctic environment will constitute an important part of Canada's northern foreign policy.

### Effective Measures on Global Climate Change

Climate change would be dramatic in Arctic regions, and these Arctic effects would in turn have global consequences. The first impacts of climate change may already be evident in the Arctic, with increase in recorded annual temperatures (e.g., Mackenzie Basin), reduction of sea ice cover in the western Arctic, thawed permafrost in some areas, lower lake levels and increased incidence of forest fires. Recognizing that climate change is a global and not just a regional problem, Canada has participated actively in international co-operation on climate change, including the