

of disciplines, such as archaeology and zoology. In 1986, it supported 229 projects, including 10 from US universities.

Political-Economic Development in the Canadian Arctic

The federal government has affirmed its commitment to the devolution of political and economic responsibilities to Territorial governments in the North and the process of settling aboriginal land claims. These developments will bring political and economic decentralization to the Arctic.

Distance and harsh climate, coupled with stringent environmental safeguards, impose a heavy cost on the development of oil, gas, and minerals. Important reserves of oil and gas have been discovered in the Arctic. Limited mineral exploitation has also taken place.

In 1970 Canada adopted the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act (AWPPA) in recognition of the fact that the fragile Arctic ecology required special protection. It imposed strict rules and regulations regarding the passage of ships and cargo in Canadian internal waters, as well as waters 100 miles seaward.

Encouraging economic and social development, while at the same time respecting and preserving the traditional culture and way of life of the Inuit, represents a formidable challenge. Canada's 25,000 Inuit, inhabitants of the Arctic for thousands of years, place the highest priority on successfully meeting this challenge. The AWPPA and other related legislation have been enacted by Canada to address these concerns.

Proposed energy developments in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) may adversely affect the Inuit and native peoples in the Yukon and Northwest Territories who are dependent on the Porcupine Caribou herd. This herd's range extends from the ANWR into Canada. The need to adopt a consultative approach on this issue led to the July 1987 Agreement between Canada and the US designed to protect the herd and to establish a joint management board. The Canadian government's official comment on the US report recommending oil development in the ANWR underlined Canada's concern that there be no adverse impact on the herd, and indicated our preference that the ANWR be designated as wilderness.