

circumpolar states. Shultz said that Permanent Participants should vote on policies and projects that have an impact on Indigenous Peoples. "Canada should advocate this position. [...] It would not be inconsistent with Canada's international image."

Wayne Lord replied that the Arctic Council is promoting cooperation and does not nor should operate like the United Nations. Some issues are prohibited from being discussed at the Arctic Council table. A key role for Indigenous Peoples is proposing sustainable development projects for the Arctic Council, which only needs the sponsorship of one state to do.

The Arctic Council remains a young international organization that is still agreeing on how to discuss the issues of the North. The Arctic Council is still trying to agree on the vocabulary to have a dialogue, said Lord.

University of the Arctic

The University of the Arctic was once a "wild" idea of Northern colleges and individuals which has antecedents in the international organization, the Circumpolar Universities Association. Now, the University of the Arctic is appointing members of the Board of Governors and designing a curriculum to meet northern needs and aspirations. Two members of the university's new Board of Governors, Audrey McLaughlin and Jan Henry Keskitalo (Saami College), attended.

"Students are now saying, when can we enroll in this University of the Arctic?" said Aron Senkpiel, Dean of the Arts and Science program at Yukon College and member of the planning committee for the university's baccalaureate degree. This degree will have three key components: the Baccalaureate of Circumpolar Studies, the Arctic Learning Environment, and the Circumpolar Mobility Program. The primary clients of this inclusive program will be "Northerners whose access to higher education is limited, to people who can't reach a post-secondary institution, can't speak the language or can't spend the money they don't have for an education," said Senkpiel. He added that with a framework in place, the process of designing the curriculum and organizing the network must become "more inclusive" such as other colleges, Indigenous Peoples and other parties.

An added challenge is the high number of prospective students who did not complete secondary school. Ed Shultz described the conflict facing many Indigenous students who grow up learning from one culture and then are confronted and pressured by the Western model of education and values. He suggested that there is tremendous potential for the University of the Arctic to create a model to encourage learning and reduce the inner conflict this experience provokes in Indigenous students.

"It's impossible to separate northern knowledge from northern post-secondary education," said Sally Webber. Audrey McLaughlin also emphasized the importance of "really using Northern knowledge instead of adjusting southern practices to the Arctic."