



considerable attention to sustainable development, includes among one of its recommendations, the following: support the sustainable utilization of non-renewable resources, especially by indigenous peoples. What does that mean?

Prosperity, security and the projection of Canadian values

These are the three pillars on which Canadian foreign policy is supposed to rest, as articulated by the government in 1995.

In Canada, in the North, or at least in large areas of it, many of its aboriginal peoples don't enjoy the first two. Some Northern communities live on the verge of poverty, beset by social ills, beyond compare to the majority of Canadians. With Canadian sovereignty uncertain in much of the High Arctic, security in the traditional sense is unassured, even in the absence of any current direct threat.

Meanwhile, in the broader definitions of security, which many now hold to include collective environmental security and the protection of cultures and peoples, not just states, at least some of the inhabitants of Canada's North remain in peril.

The challenge then, is not just to project Canadian values including democracy and human rights as a "Circumpolar" dimension of Canadian foreign policy, but to achieve them in the Canadian North.

Questions to Consider?

1. Aside from the often-passionate, stakeholders championing a "Northern" or "circumpolar" dimension in Canadian foreign policy, does such an effort have any relevance or importance for the overwhelming majority of Canadians? If so, what is it, and how can Canadians be convinced?
2. Does the creation of the Arctic Council really offer multilateral opportunities for pan-Arctic efforts, or is it more likely to bedevil Canada's overwhelmingly important bilateral relationship with the United States, and, albeit to a lesser extent, bilateral relations with other Arctic Council members?
3. Should Canada, in the name of human rights, champion the political aims of indigenous peoples, especially in Russia, and what will be the consequent cost of the broader relationship with Moscow?
4. Does a University of the Arctic matter or is it a last-minute effort to find something to show at the first Arctic Council summit?
5. Should geography, rather than demography, history and trade, take a leading role in determining Canadian foreign policy?

