

doc
CA1
EA752
98N36
ENG

DOCS
CA1 EA752 98N36 ENG
National Forum on Canada's
Circumpolar Relations (1998)
Interim report 1998 National Foru
on Canada's Circumpolar Relations
summary of recommendations. --
17973163

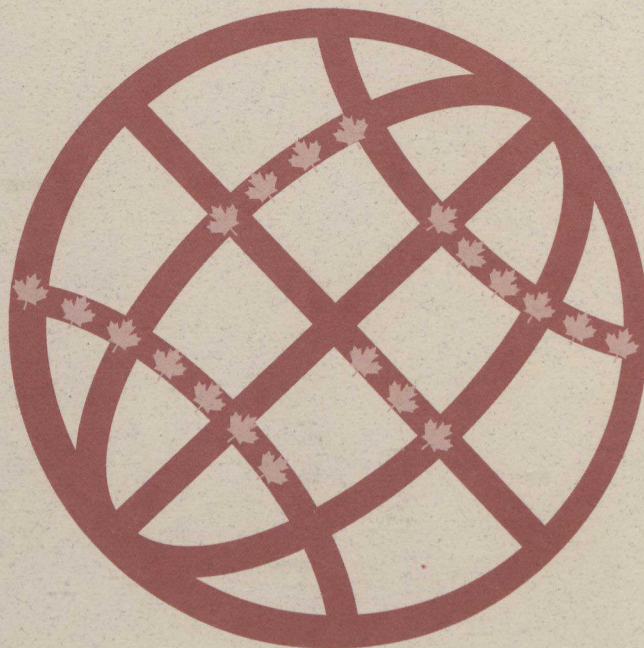
Canadian Centre
For Foreign Policy
Development

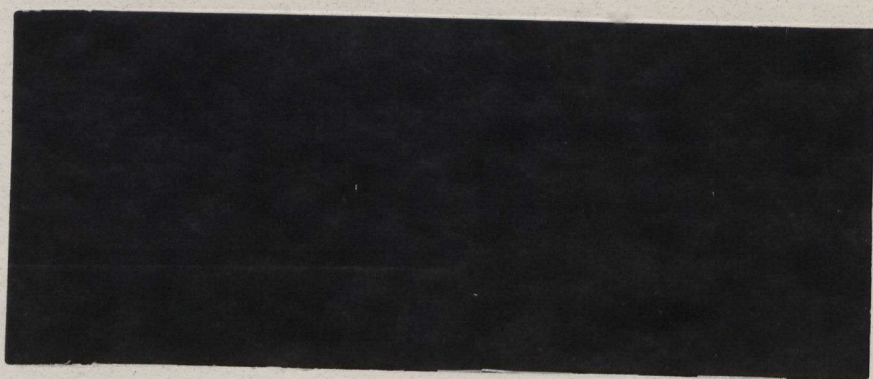


Centre Canadien
pour le développement
de la politique étrangère

Policy Options

Interim Report
1998 National Forum on Canada's Circumpolar Relations
Summary of Recommendations
Whitehorse - Yellowknife - Iqaluit

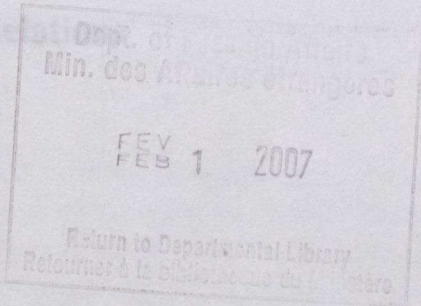




1998 National Forum on Canada's Circumpolar Relations

Whitehorse - May 9, 1998

Policy Recommendations



Interim Report 1998 National Forum on Canada's Circumpolar Relations Summary of Recommendations Whitehorse - Yellowknife - Iqaluit

The federal government should review its traditional role in policy making and work towards increasing its emphasis on facilitating the links already established between circumpolar groups and regions, and fostering the growth of new relationships. The traditional top-down Ottawa driven approach needs to accommodate the uniqueness of existing and emerging relationships among circumpolar nations. In addition, the federal government should activate strategies for encouraging networks of government building among governments. Of particular importance is the support of circumpolar networks in the Arctic, the North West, and the Arctic and First Nations.

The federal government should review its traditional role in policy making, which has tended to emphasize the "strong" bilateral relations, and work towards the development of a new model of foreign policy for the Arctic. This model should emphasize joint collaboration and the participation of all parties. This approach should be characterized such areas as land claims resolution in the north, the role of women in the development of responsibilities, and such initiatives as the Arctic Council. An essential element in this model is a "people-to-people" approach that recognizes shared and embraces such elements as gender equality, cultural diversity, environmental integrity and sustainable development. Consistent with this recommendation, it is strongly recommended that the exchange of people and ideas, whether bilaterally or within the region, should be an anchor for the policy process.

Northern people often feel closer to each other than to their own. Northern foreign policy should be built on the fact that this circumpolar closeness grows from common challenges (climate, health, environment, etc.) and the development of similar solutions to such challenges. The building and sharing of northern solutions to northern problems should be a foundation of Canada's northern foreign policy.

The federal government should take great effort to continue the CCFPD role as a first step toward embracing northern ideas in the development of northern policy. Furthermore, at the beginning of the recommendation, it is recommended that these ideas be recognized as becoming an ongoing mechanism for the future work of governments in the foreign policy development process. The traditional approach of using air missions and other forms of short term information gathering should be replaced with this more open developmental approach.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade should document its initiatives and policy development in a more "user friendly" form. This is of particular importance in the north where there are language barriers and the current form may hinder the aims of inclusiveness, broad dialogue and understanding of policy initiatives.

1998 National Forum on Canada's Circumpolar Relations

Whitehorse - May 9, 1998

Policy Recommendations

- The federal government should review its traditional role in policy making and work towards increasing its emphases on facilitating the links already established between circumpolar groups and regions, and fostering the growth of new relationships. The traditional top-down Ottawa driven approach tends to underestimate the uniqueness of existing and emerging relationships among circumpolar peoples. In addition, the federal government should activate strategies for encouraging networking and consensus building among northerners. Of particular importance is the support of existing networks among northern scientists, businesses, NGO's, arts and First Nations.
- The federal government should review its traditional role in policy making, which has tended to emphasize the "triumph of particular nations", and work toward the development of a new model of foreign policy that focuses on cooperative relations, joint collaboration and the betterment of all parties. This approach already characterizes such areas as land claims resolution in the north, the "soft" approach to the devolution of responsibilities, and such institutions as the Arctic Council. As embodied in today's north this model is a "people-to-people" approach that is community based and embraces such elements as gender equality, cultural diversity, environmental integrity and sustainable development. Consistent with this recommendation, it is strongly recommended that the exchange of people and ideas, whether internationally or within the country, should be an anchor for the policy process.
- Northern people often feel closer to each other than to their nation. Northern foreign policy should be built on the fact that this circumpolar closeness grows from common challenges (climate, isolation, size, demography, etc.) and the development of similar solutions to such challenges. The building and sharing of northern solutions to northern problems should be a foundation of Canada's northern foreign policy.
- The federal government should take great effort to continue the CCFPD fora as a first step toward embracing northern ideas in the development of northern policy. Furthermore, in keeping with this recommendation, it is recommended that these fora be routinized to become an ongoing mechanism for the involvement of northerners in the foreign policy development process. The traditional approach of asking for reactions and other forms of short term issue-based information gathering should be replaced with this more open developmental approach.
- The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade should document its initiatives, and policy development in a more "user friendly" form. This is of particular importance in the north where there are language barriers, and the current form may hinder the aims of inclusiveness, broad acceptance and understanding of policy initiatives.

■ In order for Canada to become a vehicle, driving the development of a fairer domestic world, it is recommended that Canadian foreign policy should reflect the current situation in Canada, and consistency with domestic values in its policy initiatives.

■ Canada should market its successes, not only in technology or product development, but also in its approaches to developing a fairer and more open society. For example, the Land Claims process in the Yukon has been inclusive, open and responsive to local contexts while at the same time being innovative in its approach to the reallocation of resources and opportunities. This process can be a model marketed throughout the world.

■ The participants were enthusiastic about the existence of the Arctic Council and recommended that its operations within Canada should be located in the north, and emphasis should be put on northern participation to the greatest extent possible.

■ First Nations should be welcomed as voting members of the Arctic Council. It is anticipated that positive experiences among aboriginal groups such as the development of cooperation agreements, resource sharing accords and other consensus building mechanisms will strengthen the emerging good will among the members of the Arctic Council

■ Canada's role in the Arctic Council should be supported at home by mechanisms that ensure that northerners are involved in defining issues to be brought to the Council, as well as in the development of positions taken by Canada. In addition, it is recommended that Canada's representatives on the Arctic Council should hold regular open meetings in the north to ensure that northern residents are kept aware of its deliberations, and that there be provisions of accountability set up for Canada's presentations to the Council.

■ Although circumpolar peoples share common concerns and face similar challenges, many issues are extremely complex and defy easy resolution. Often the mere fact of national boundaries makes solutions difficult to resolve. It is recommended that Canada bring to the Arctic Council a resolution proposing the establishment of a conflict and dispute resolution committee (modeled on a similar mechanism found in the Yukon Umbrella Final Agreement) made up of the members and aimed at providing support for the orderly treatment of issues defying easy resolution.

■ It is recommended that Canada should promote the positive aspects of the Canadian North to other Canadians and peoples of the world. This will be a contrast to what appears to be reliance on issue dominated publicity that focuses attention on crises situations, such as contaminant migration, or on resource use conflicts, such as the debate around the 10-02 lands.

Workshop Participants

Yukoners:

John Carroll-Yukon Chamber of Commerce, Whitehorse
Mary Anne Carroll-Kluane First Nation, Destruction Bay
Ken De La Barre-CESO, Marsh Lake
Gerald Dickson-Kluane First Nation, Destruction Bay
Shayne Doerksen-High School Student, Whitehorse
Jean Gleason-CYFN, Whitehorse
Amanda Graham-Yukon College, Whitehorse
Nancy Hagar-Nacho Nyak Dun, Mayo
Jean Lassen-High School Student, Fox Lake
Rachael Lewis-Circumpolar Agriculture Assn., Whitehorse
Doug Livingston-MLA, Lake Laberge
Maureen Long-Yukon College, Whitehorse
Jennifer Mauro-Yukon Council on the Economy and Environment, Whitehorse
Floyd McCormick-Yukon College, Whitehorse
Piers McDonald-Government Leader, MLA McIntyre-Takhini
Audrey McLaughlin-Yukon Circumpolar Ambassador, Whitehorse
Roger Mitchell-Yukon Medical Association, Whitehorse
Janet Moodie-Yukon Territorial Government, Whitehorse
Matthew Poushinsky-High School Student, Whitehorse
Sally Ross-President Yukon College, Whitehorse
Michael Smith-High School Student, Whitehorse
Steve Smyth-Yukon Territorial Government, Whitehorse
Rod Snow-Lawyer, Whitehorse

1998 National Forum on Canada's Circumpolar Relations

Yellowknife, N.W.T. - May 19th, 1998

Policy Recommendations

Economic Development/Foreign Policy

- Canada should make a commitment to encourage and support financially dialogue and exchanges between diverse interest groups in the circumpolar region in the areas of sustainable development, renewable resources management, and business development.
- It was recommended that the Arctic Council host a workshop to promote economic development (possibly every 2 years).

Communications/Foreign Policy

- The Federal Government should make the Arctic Council the information and resource manager for all the Arctic research bodies (ie: Arctic Institute, Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Canadian Circumpolar Institute, etc...) to provide an exchange with the Dene and other Polar nations.
- In order to take have a visible presence and take Northern views to the international polar stage, the Circumpolar Ambassador needs to do more outreach in Northern Canada.

Education And Youth/Foreign Policy

- Canada should encourage educational exchanges (ie: instructor or student) within the circumpolar region. This should include technical knowledge, traditional knowledge, as well as academic programs (eg. Arctic University).

Regional Security/Foreign Policy

- The Federal Government should re-examine a commitment to northern sovereignty and Arctic security in order to work towards a foreign policy of joint responsibility with other polar countries.

Environmental Issues

- Canada must take the lead on ensuring that joint cooperation between richer circumpolar countries be made to ensure that funds are available for training, and technology for environmental clean-up.
- Canada must ensure that an exchange of information be made between circumpolar countries on environmental impact processes monitoring and prevention.
- Canada should define what "Traditional Knowledge" is followed by and implementation of it's positive aspects on a circumpolar scale.
- Canada must promote policies to reduce airborne contaminants and global warming impacts
- Canada must be a leader by example in environmental "friendliness".
- Canada must give more decision making power to A.M.A.P.
- Canada must promote international education on environmental issues (ie: University of the Arctic).

Personal Security

- Canada should promote cultural exchanges of Canadian civil rights and demonstrate how beneficial these rights may be in other Circumpolar Regions.
- Canada should expose discrepancies on human rights in international forums (ie: Arctic Council, UN).

Governance

- Canada should review its self government and land claims models that may be implemented in other Circumpolar countries, and promote further the exchanges of Aboriginal groups and delegations with in Arctic countries.

Participants

Herb Heinz	ENG NWT Community Mobilization Partnership
Marvin De Georgio	Instructor - Aurora College Yellowknife Campus
James Hrynyshyn	Editor - Northern News
Muriel Betsina	Elder N'Dilo
Tim Townsend	Administrator Environmentalist - Diavik Diamond Mines
Joel Campbell Partnership	Youth Representative - NWT Community Mobilization
Michael O'Shaughnessy	Events Planner - C.C.F.P.D. Ottawa, ON
Sebastien Sigovin	Human Rights Officer D.F.A.I.T. Ottawa, ON
Natasha McCagg	V.P. of Student Council - Aurora College Yellowknife Campus
Andre Legare	Northern Science Officer - Canadian Polar Commission
Bob Overvold	R.D.C. - D.I.A.N.D.
Addena Sumter-Freitag	Community Worker - Status of Women Council of the N.W.T.
Maureen Marshall	Constituency Manager - M.P.'s Office Yellowknife, NT
Kevin O'Reilly	Research Director - Canadian Arctic Resources Committee
Michelle Bellefontane	Reporter - CBC Radio Yellowknife
Chris Heron	Sr. Division Officer - Denendeh Development Corporation

1998 National Forum on Canada's Circumpolar Relations

Iqaluit - May 28, 1998

Policy Recommendations

Should Canada develop a northern foreign policy

Participants recommended that Canada:

should develop a northern foreign policy;

should develop this policy in consultation with residents of northern Canada and not in isolation from them;

should develop policy that is in accord with the needs, aspirations, cultures, history, and past and current initiatives of northern peoples generally and Nunavut residents, particularly Inuit, specifically.

How Should Canada Develop Its Foreign Policy?

Participants strongly recommended that Canada include northerners as participants in northern policy development through a process that recognizes that:

we need foreign policy from the north about the north, developed in the north by northerners;

we need and can provide a Northern/circumpolar aspect to the creation of visionary northern components of foreign policy. In order to do so, we need funding to prepare and an ongoing role in policy development.

Participants also discussed various formats for the consideration of northern foreign policy development. Suggestions include:

The Arctic Council: A number of participants felt that the Arctic Council should be the venue for developing and implementing foreign policy, and expressed a number of suggestions in relation to this:

needed are fora for Northern organizations to provide input; ideas include:

a northern policy position within External Affairs;

a forum/process for Inuit leaders to be gathered together to be policy makers and assist the Arctic Council to develop policy that reflects Inuit needs;

funds and processes should be developed to revisit this process; Northerners should be included on a continuing, ongoing basis.

as a body for foreign policy development, the Arctic Council should employ certain tools, including communication, research and the development of a central information base, education, and the encouragement of aboriginal self-determination;

development of a northern/circumpolar group within External Affairs to support Mary Simon; discussion emphasized that this new circumpolar foreign policy group should be northern in staffing, philosophy, awareness, etc.

Children, knowledge, education, and the future

Participants who addressed the questions of children/youth and education discussed the difficulties of experiencing population growth at a time of declining resources for education and development. This was felt to be particularly important in that southern Canada is at a different demographic stage, and has different priorities. Participants speculated that this might also be a concern in other circumpolar countries, and felt that a comparison with the situation in other circumpolar nations might be interesting to all nations involved. There was extensive discussion of education and related issues.

University of the Arctic

Among points raised for consideration, participants suggested that:

the focus of a university should be northern youth. Such a university should strive to enlarge their perspective and increase pride; it should promote northern strengths and values, and sustain a link to the past;

youth would be able to develop circumpolar relationships that would promote other goals;

student exchanges are valuable and would be enhanced by a circumpolar university;

a university could become a forum to contribute to Canadian foreign policy;

a university could be a good mechanism to share circumpolar knowledge among participant nations and groups;

elders, throughout the north, should be leaders in such an effort, to share the past and cultural values; elders could also teach ancient lifestyles, such as that enjoyed by Inuit and seen today to be needed as an option at both high school and advanced levels of education. Instructional exchanges are important, but that immigration processes currently make this difficult.

A University of the Arctic should:

focus on arctic issues, and promote cooperation and communication about them;

use existing resources and expertise in circumpolar areas: no brick and mortar were the words of one participant;

be run by an international secretariat;

utilize distance and remote learning;

encourage and develop skills in northern youth;

incorporate traditional education, which would require funding to collect on a circumpolar basis;

develop curriculum that incorporates traditional ecological knowledge and traditional education;

develop curriculum in consultation with northerners and relevant people through techniques such as focus groups;

encourage and allow elders the north to lead throughout, to share past and values.

Traditional knowledge

Ideas generated for consideration within development of foreign policy:

traditional knowledge exists throughout the north and continues to be integral to life;

funding and cooperation are needed to document it, and to ensure that it continues to be relevant and understood;

that it is the property of the aboriginal groups who created it, and that concerns about intellectual property exist.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Participants who discussed traditional ecological knowledge emphasized that, while unwritten, a large body of knowledge about climate and wildlife exists that must be respected and used. Participants agreed that its importance needs to be recognized, and suggested that any considerations of areas such as research, resource management, pollutants and contamination, and education include traditional ecological knowledge.

They further felt it should be recognized by and incorporated into foreign policy.

Environmental Concerns

Participants felt that Canada should consider environmental concerns as basic to the development of foreign policy, and should strive to:

deal on our behalf with the countries where the contaminants originate;

ask other countries to suspend use of contaminants;

ensure that money is set aside for reclamation when relevant.

Exchanges of People and Ideas

Participants discussing exchanges expressed awareness that the circumpolar world shares many concerns, priorities, advantages and disadvantages. Various comments were made about the advantages of exchanging visits and ideas with other circumpolar communities. Student, trade, sports exchanges: all have value and are positive learning experience for all participants.

Among the advantages are strengthened northern ties, voice, and cooperation. In addition, exchanges help show similarities, and result in substantial exchanges of information and ideas. And, as one participant mentioned, it is good also to know of situations in which conditions are worse, as in Russia; such knowledge gives perspective.

Participants agreed that international circumpolar exchanges for Inuit/Northern peoples should be a priority, and that barriers to such activities should be reduced. One suggestion was that circumpolar passport requirements, particularly for Inuit, should be dropped. Immigration requirements impede travel among families who are separated by barriers (borders) perceived as artificial and sometimes not accepted. Immigration requirements also impede skill exchanges through such things as teacher exchanges, because of barriers to temporary employment in Canada.

Intellectual Property

One group explored the concept of intellectual property extensively, and agreed that it presents a problem. They felt that cooperation is needed at both national and international levels to ensure that credit is given to Inuit throughout the circumpolar world for their intellectual property-- traditional knowledge, the qayaq, the ullu, etc. In the past, credit, whether financial or simply recognition, has not been given. This group felt that the issue is of ongoing concern, and that Canada can assume a leadership role in preventing the area of intellectual property.

Jurisdiction, sovereignty, and Canada's ability to enforce

Participants who addressed the issues of jurisdiction, sovereignty, and enforceability, discussed them as issues that relate to other items, including wildlife and pollution. Because we do not live in isolation, these become important international issues.

Points raised involving jurisdiction and/or sovereignty, and ways in which it impacts on northerners in their daily lives, thus appear throughout this report. In addition, participants suggested that, as Canada has no ability to police its waters and exert sovereignty, it needs to develop a capacity to support developments in the north and ensure sovereignty.

The ability to enforce regulation in other areas is also seen as important; for example, tourists trespass on Inuit lands and archaeological sites without permission, despite the existence of international standards for tourism. The presence of an increasing number of cruise ships, and the significant impact of such numbers in so short a time, was mentioned as an example.

Participants further agreed that interjurisdictional problems exist that need to be addressed. It is not possible to divorce domestic policy from foreign policy issues. The Nunavut Land Claim Agreement contains areas in which interjurisdictional activities and negotiations are required, and which must be recognized in foreign policy creation.

Relationships and communication

Participants noted in diverse ways the importance of the relationship of northerners with each other, both nationally and in the circumpolar context, and with southerners of all nations. The importance of educating southerners to northern issues and realities, both those specific to the north and those that may have major impact on an unaware south, underlay many comments about education, barriers, etc.

Many felt that, by strengthening northern ties, we can increase the collective northern voice. Thus a strong voice coming from the circumpolar north may be able to exert a stronger impact on southern-dominated policy development in the various nations involved.

Also expressed was a need for increased cooperation. There are models of outside bodies, both nationally and internationally, that deal with tourism, for example, and include representation from all groups involved. We need such models and we need active lobby groups.

Research

Participants suggested a number of areas for consideration within the framework of developing northern foreign policy:

partnerships with other governments are one way to ensure that research knowledge is shared and that research is appropriate and required;

with current fiscal realities, it is essential to convince southerners that research is important and that the Arctic is an essential research area; international agreements help to focus attention and enhance importance;

another way to create a willingness among southerners is to educate them as to the impact of climate change, pollutants, etc: areas in which northern research is essential;

there is a need for a central information base on all research conducted in the Arctic;

traditional ecological knowledge is valid and important, and needs to be fully included in relevant research projects;

lack of existing research requires both short and long term research with long term financial commitment from national governments;

integrate research and communications to ensure information about planned research and results from previous research gets back to the communities and to use it to convince funding bodies, nationally and internationally, to continue their support.

Participants suggested that research appropriate to the North and its development should be the focus. Such areas include:

international fish and wildlife studies that incorporate traditional ecological knowledge
International studies of pollutants and contaminants: how they spread, where they originate, how to deal with, etc;

climactic change/weather studies.

Trade and economic development

Participants recommended that Canada should develop a northern trade policy that would:

be developed with northern input;

have rational rules, developed in consultation;

drop or reduce circumpolar trade barriers, particularly for Inuit;

promote trade in animal products: many species are tradable, but Canadian policy prevents it from happening;

work to counter or control outside influence groups, such as the anti-seal lobby;

negotiate to remove barriers such as those in US Marine Protection Act;

by developing markets and relationships, promote northern economic development, social and cultural well-being.

communications and transportation routes and links be looked at within the context of developing a circumpolar trade policy;

Canada should promote more direct contact among circumpolar nations via northern routes. Examples used included the recent Canada Post agreement with Greenland, and the suggestion that travel from the NWT to Alaska (or the Yukon) should not have to be routed via southern Canada.

Sectors that should be considered for promotion on an international level include cottage industries based on wildlife and traditional skills, and food processing businesses that rely on the harvesting of northern foods. Canada should also look to develop its expertise in areas such as land claim negotiation.

Sectors that need vigilance include the fishery. While it is becoming increasingly important to parts of Nunavut, there is increasing concern that overfishing in Arctic waters by international fisheries can endanger economic development. Shared stocks have led to ongoing communications with Greenland; Nunavut participates in several international fora on areas identified within the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement. Concerns were raised about Canada's inability to police its own waters.

Wildlife and resource management

Ideas generated for consideration within development of foreign policy:

Canada should promote pro-sealing/pro-fur initiatives, such as sealskin clothing manufacture and trade, that are based on renewable resources;

Canada should act, on the international scene, to promote and support legal activities of its citizens, such as the bowhead whale hunt;

Canada's northern population is small; this means it has limited influence. Canada should focus on promotion from all circumpolar countries to strengthen and learn from one another;

Canada should ensure that economic benefits from northern products come north (jobs, manufacturing, economic development);

Canada should look at American policies that are detrimental to northern activities;

Canada should look at overfishing in Arctic waters of the North Atlantic by foreign fishing fleets.

Participants List

Ben Kovic
Nunavut Wildlife management Board

Bernadette Macpah
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

Alicie Joamie
Elder

Ian Rose
Nunavut Arctic College

Joanasie Benjamin Arreak
Elder, retired RCMP

Kakkik Peter
High school student

Ken Toner
Bank of Montreal

Louis Courternanche
Royal Bank

Lynn Cousins
Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)

Cherry Kerp-Kinnear
Nunavut Tourism

Matthew Spence
Town Councillor, Baffin Business Development

Okalik Eegeesiak
Inuit Tapirisat of Canada

Peter Ittinuar
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development

Peter Johnson
Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies

Rory Ellsworth
QIA Youth

Steven Bill
High School Student

Don Morrison
Baffin Divisional Education Council

Peter Jacopoosie
BDEC

Annette Bourgeois
Nunatsiaq News

Carol Orr
Nunavut Tusaavut Inc.

Malachi Arreak, Chairman
Nunavut Tusaavut Inc.

Israel Mablick
Nunavut Tusaavut Inc.

Robert Contois
Quebec City National Forum Coordinator

Wayne Lord
DFAIT

Penny Kerrigan
CCFPD

1998 National Forum on Canada's Circumpolar Relations

Whitehorse - May 9, 1998

Policy Recommendations

- The federal government should review its traditional role in policy making and work towards increasing its emphases on facilitating the links already established between circumpolar groups and regions, and fostering the growth of new relationships. The traditional top-down Ottawa driven approach tends to underestimate the uniqueness of existing and emerging relationships among circumpolar peoples. In addition, the federal government should activate strategies for encouraging networking and consensus building among northerners. Of particular importance is the support of existing networks among northern scientists, businesses, NGO's, arts and First Nations.
- The federal government should review its traditional role in policy making, which has tended to emphasize the "triumph of particular nations", and work toward the development of a new model of foreign policy that focuses on cooperative relations, joint collaboration and the betterment of all parties. This approach already characterizes such areas as land claims resolution in the north, the "soft" approach to the devolution of responsibilities, and such institutions as the Arctic Council. As embodied in today's north this model is a "people-to-people" approach that is community based and embraces such elements as gender equality, cultural diversity, environmental integrity and sustainable development. Consistent with this recommendation, it is strongly recommended that the exchange of people and ideas, whether internationally or within the country, should be an anchor for the policy process.
- Northern people often feel closer to each other than to their nation. Northern foreign policy should be built on the fact that this circumpolar closeness grows from common challenges (climate, isolation, size, demography, etc.) and the development of similar solutions to such challenges. The building and sharing of northern solutions to northern problems should be a foundation of Canada's northern foreign policy.
- The federal government should take great effort to continue the CCFPD fora as a first step toward embracing northern ideas in the development of northern policy. Furthermore, in keeping with this recommendation, it is recommended that these fora be routinized to become an ongoing mechanism for the involvement of northerners in the foreign policy development process. The traditional approach of asking for reactions and other forms of short term issue-based information gathering should be replaced with this more open developmental approach.
- The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade should document its initiatives, and policy development in a more "user friendly" form. This is of particular importance in the north where there are language barriers, and the current form may hinder the aims of inclusiveness, broad acceptance and understanding of policy initiatives.

■ In order for Canada to become a vehicle, driving the development of a fairer domestic world, it is recommended that Canadian foreign policy should reflect the current situation in Canada, and consistency with domestic values in its policy initiatives.

■ Canada should market its successes, not only in technology or product development, but also in its approaches to developing a fairer and more open society. For example, the Land Claims process in the Yukon has been inclusive, open and responsive to local contexts while at the same time being innovative in its approach to the reallocation of resources and opportunities. This process can be a model marketed throughout the world.

■ The participants were enthusiastic about the existence of the Arctic Council and recommended that its operations within Canada should be located in the north, and emphasis should be put on northern participation to the greatest extent possible.

■ First Nations should be welcomed as voting members of the Arctic Council. It is anticipated that positive experiences among aboriginal groups such as the development of cooperation agreements, resource sharing accords and other consensus building mechanisms will strengthen the emerging good will among the members of the Arctic Council

■ Canada's role in the Arctic Council should be supported at home by mechanisms that ensure that northerners are involved in defining issues to be brought to the Council, as well as in the development of positions taken by Canada. In addition, it is recommended that Canada's representatives on the Arctic Council should hold regular open meetings in the north to ensure that northern residents are kept aware of its deliberations, and that there be provisions of accountability set up for Canada's presentations to the Council.

■ Although circumpolar peoples share common concerns and face similar challenges, many issues are extremely complex and defy easy resolution. Often the mere fact of national boundaries makes solutions difficult to resolve. It is recommended that Canada bring to the Arctic Council a resolution proposing the establishment of a conflict and dispute resolution committee (modeled on a similar mechanism found in the Yukon Umbrella Final Agreement) made up of the members and aimed at providing support for the orderly treatment of issues defying easy resolution.

■ It is recommended that Canada should promote the positive aspects of the Canadian North to other Canadians and peoples of the world. This will be a contrast to what appears to be reliance on issue dominated publicity that focuses attention on crises situations, such as contaminant migration, or on resource use conflicts, such as the debate around the 10-02 lands.

Workshop Participants

Yukoners:

John Carroll-Yukon Chamber of Commerce, Whitehorse
Mary Anne Carroll-Kluane First Nation, Destruction Bay
Ken De La Barre-CESO, Marsh Lake
Gerald Dickson-Kluane First Nation, Destruction Bay
Shayne Doerksen-High School Student, Whitehorse
Jean Gleason-CYFN, Whitehorse
Amanda Graham-Yukon College, Whitehorse
Nancy Hagar-Nacho Nyak Dun, Mayo
Jean Lassen-High School Student, Fox Lake
Rachael Lewis-Circumpolar Agriculture Assn., Whitehorse
Doug Livingston-MLA, Lake Laberge
Maureen Long-Yukon College, Whitehorse
Jennifer Mauro-Yukon Council on the Economy and Environment, Whitehorse
Floyd McCormick-Yukon College, Whitehorse
Piers McDonald-Government Leader, MLA McIntyre-Takhini
Audrey McLaughlin-Yukon Circumpolar Ambassador, Whitehorse
Roger Mitchell-Yukon Medical Association, Whitehorse
Janet Moodie-Yukon Territorial Government, Whitehorse
Matthew Poushinsky-High School Student, Whitehorse
Sally Ross-President Yukon College, Whitehorse
Michael Smith-High School Student, Whitehorse
Steve Smyth-Yukon Territorial Government, Whitehorse
Rod Snow-Lawyer, Whitehorse

Education And Youth/Youth Policy

*Canada should encourage educational exchanges (ie. instructor or student) within the circumpolar region. This should include technical knowledge, traditional knowledge, as well as exchange programs (eg. Arctic University).

Regional Security/Foreign Policy

*The Federal Government should re-emphasize a commitment in northern sovereignty and Arctic security in order to work towards a foreign policy of joint responsibility with other polar countries.

1998 National Forum on Canada's Circumpolar Relations

Yellowknife, N.W.T. - May 19th, 1998

Policy Recommendations

Economic Development/Foreign Policy

- Canada should make a commitment to encourage and support financially dialogue and exchanges between diverse interest groups in the circumpolar region in the areas of sustainable development, renewable resources management, and business development.
- It was recommended that the Arctic Council host a workshop to promote economic development (possibly every 2 years).

Communications/Foreign Policy

- The Federal Government should make the Arctic Council the information and resource manager for all the Arctic research bodies (ie: Arctic Institute, Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Canadian Circumpolar Institute, etc...) to provide an exchange with the Dene and other Polar nations.
- In order to take have a visible presence and take Northern views to the international polar stage, the Circumpolar Ambassador needs to do more outreach in Northern Canada.

Education And Youth/Foreign Policy

- Canada should encourage educational exchanges (ie: instructor or student) within the circumpolar region. This should include technical knowledge, traditional knowledge, as well as academic programs (eg. Arctic University).

Regional Security/Foreign Policy

- The Federal Government should re-examine a commitment to northern sovereignty and Arctic security in order to work towards a foreign policy of joint responsibility with other polar countries.

Environmental Issues

- Canada must take the lead on ensuring that joint cooperation between richer circumpolar countries be made to ensure that funds are available for training, and technology for environmental clean-up.
- Canada must ensure that an exchange of information be made between circumpolar countries on environmental impact processes monitoring and prevention.
- Canada should define what "Traditional Knowledge" is followed by and implementation of it's positive aspects on a circumpolar scale.
- Canada must promote policies to reduce airborne contaminants and global warming impacts
- Canada must be a leader by example in environmental "friendliness".
- Canada must give more decision making power to A.M.A.P.
- Canada must promote international education on environmental issues (ie: University of the Arctic).

Personal Security

- Canada should promote cultural exchanges of Canadian civil rights and demonstrate how beneficial these rights may be in other Circumpolar Regions.
- Canada should expose discrepancies on human rights in international forums (ie: Arctic Council, UN).

Governance

- Canada should review its self government and land claims models that may be implemented in other Circumpolar countries, and promote further the exchanges of Aboriginal groups and delegations with in Arctic countries.

Participants

Herb Heinz	ENG NWT Community Mobilization Partnership
Marvin De Georgio	Instructor - Aurora College Yellowknife Campus
James Hrynyshyn	Editor - Northern News
Muriel Betsina	Elder N'Dilo
Tim Townsend	Administrator Environmentalist - Diavik Diamond Mines
Joel Campbell Partnership	Youth Representative - NWT Community Mobilization
Michael O'Shaughnessy	Events Planner - C.C.F.P.D. Ottawa, ON
Sebastien Sigovin	Human Rights Officer D.F.A.I.T. Ottawa, ON
Natasha McCagg	V.P. of Student Council - Aurora College Yellowknife Campus
Andre Legare	Northern Science Officer - Canadian Polar Commission
Bob Overvold	R.D.C. - D.I.A.N.D.
Addena Sumter-Freitag	Community Worker - Status of Women Council of the N.W.T.
Maureen Marshall	Constituency Manager - M.P.'s Office Yellowknife, NT
Kevin O'Reilly	Research Director - Canadian Arctic Resources Committee
Michelle Bellefontane	Reporter - CBC Radio Yellowknife
Chris Heron	Sr. Division Officer - Denendeh Development Corporation

1998 National Forum on Canada's Circumpolar Relations

Iqaluit - May 28, 1998

Policy Recommendations

Should Canada develop a northern foreign policy

Participants recommended that Canada:

should develop a northern foreign policy;

should develop this policy in consultation with residents of northern Canada and not in isolation from them;

should develop policy that is in accord with the needs, aspirations, cultures, history, and past and current initiatives of northern peoples generally and Nunavut residents, particularly Inuit, specifically.

How Should Canada Develop Its Foreign Policy?

Participants strongly recommended that Canada include northerners as participants in northern policy development through a process that recognizes that:

we need foreign policy from the north about the north, developed in the north by northerners;

we need and can provide a Northern/circumpolar aspect to the creation of visionary northern components of foreign policy. In order to do so, we need funding to prepare and an ongoing role in policy development.

Participants also discussed various formats for the consideration of northern foreign policy development. Suggestions include:

The Arctic Council: A number of participants felt that the Arctic Council should be the venue for developing and implementing foreign policy, and expressed a number of suggestions in relation to this:

needed are fora for Northern organizations to provide input; ideas include:

a northern policy position within External Affairs;

a forum/process for Inuit leaders to be gathered together to be policy makers and assist the Arctic Council to develop policy that reflects Inuit needs;

funds and processes should be developed to revisit this process; Northerners should be included on a continuing, ongoing basis.

as a body for foreign policy development, the Arctic Council should employ certain tools, including communication, research and the development of a central information base, education, and the encouragement of aboriginal self-determination;

development of a northern/circumpolar group within External Affairs to support Mary Simon; discussion emphasized that this new circumpolar foreign policy group should be northern in staffing, philosophy, awareness, etc.

Children, knowledge, education, and the future

Participants who addressed the questions of children/youth and education discussed the difficulties of experiencing population growth at a time of declining resources for education and development. This was felt to be particularly important in that southern Canada is at a different demographic stage, and has different priorities. Participants speculated that this might also be a concern in other circumpolar countries, and felt that a comparison with the situation in other circumpolar nations might be interesting to all nations involved. There was extensive discussion of education and related issues.

University of the Arctic

Among points raised for consideration, participants suggested that:

the focus of a university should be northern youth. Such a university should strive to enlarge their perspective and increase pride; it should promote northern strengths and values, and sustain a link to the past;

youth would be able to develop circumpolar relationships that would promote other goals;

student exchanges are valuable and would be enhanced by a circumpolar university;

a university could become a forum to contribute to Canadian foreign policy;

a university could be a good mechanism to share circumpolar knowledge among participant nations and groups;

elders, throughout the north, should be leaders in such an effort, to share the past and cultural values; elders could also teach ancient lifestyles, such as that enjoyed by Inuit and seen today to be needed as an option at both high school and advanced levels of education. Instructional exchanges are important, but that immigration processes currently make this difficult.

A University of the Arctic should:

focus on arctic issues, and promote cooperation and communication about them;

use existing resources and expertise in circumpolar areas: no brick and mortar were the words of one participant;

be run by an international secretariat;

utilize distance and remote learning;

encourage and develop skills in northern youth;

incorporate traditional education, which would require funding to collect on a circumpolar basis;

develop curriculum that incorporates traditional ecological knowledge and traditional education;

develop curriculum in consultation with northerners and relevant people through techniques such as focus groups;

encourage and allow elders the north to lead throughout, to share past and values.

Traditional knowledge

Ideas generated for consideration within development of foreign policy:

traditional knowledge exists throughout the north and continues to be integral to life;

funding and cooperation are needed to document it, and to ensure that it continues to be relevant and understood;

that it is the property of the aboriginal groups who created it, and that concerns about intellectual property exist.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Participants who discussed traditional ecological knowledge emphasized that, while unwritten, a large body of knowledge about climate and wildlife exists that must be respected and used. Participants agreed that its importance needs to be recognized, and suggested that any considerations of areas such as research, resource management, pollutants and contamination, and education include traditional ecological knowledge.

They further felt it should be recognized by and incorporated into foreign policy.

Environmental Concerns

Participants felt that Canada should consider environmental concerns as basic to the development of foreign policy, and should strive to:

deal on our behalf with the countries where the contaminants originate;

ask other countries to suspend use of contaminants;

ensure that money is set aside for reclamation when relevant.

Exchanges of People and Ideas

Participants discussing exchanges expressed awareness that the circumpolar world shares many concerns, priorities, advantages and disadvantages. Various comments were made about the advantages of exchanging visits and ideas with other circumpolar communities. Student, trade, sports exchanges: all have value and are positive learning experience for all participants.

Among the advantages are strengthened northern ties, voice, and cooperation. In addition, exchanges help show similarities, and result in substantial exchanges of information and ideas. And, as one participant mentioned, it is good also to know of situations in which conditions are worse, as in Russia; such knowledge gives perspective.

Participants agreed that international circumpolar exchanges for Inuit/Northern peoples should be a priority, and that barriers to such activities should be reduced. One suggestion was that circumpolar passport requirements, particularly for Inuit, should be dropped. Immigration requirements impede travel among families who are separated by barriers (borders) perceived as artificial and sometimes not accepted. Immigration requirements also impede skill exchanges through such things as teacher exchanges, because of barriers to temporary employment in Canada.

Intellectual Property

One group explored the concept of intellectual property extensively, and agreed that it presents a problem. They felt that cooperation is needed at both national and international levels to ensure that credit is given to Inuit throughout the circumpolar world for their intellectual property-- traditional knowledge, the qayaq, the ullu, etc. In the past, credit, whether financial or simply recognition, has not been given. This group felt that the issue is of ongoing concern, and that Canada can assume a leadership role in preventing the area of intellectual property.

Jurisdiction, sovereignty, and Canada's ability to enforce

Participants who addressed the issues of jurisdiction, sovereignty, and enforceability, discussed them as issues that relate to other items, including wildlife and pollution. Because we do not live in isolation, these become important international issues.

Points raised involving jurisdiction and/or sovereignty, and ways in which it impacts on northerners in their daily lives, thus appear throughout this report. In addition, participants suggested that, as Canada has no ability to police its waters and exert sovereignty, it needs to develop a capacity to support developments in the north and ensure sovereignty.

The ability to enforce regulation in other areas is also seen as important; for example, tourists trespass on Inuit lands and archaeological sites without permission, despite the existence of international standards for tourism. The presence of an increasing number of cruise ships, and the significant impact of such numbers in so short a time, was mentioned as an example.

Participants further agreed that interjurisdictional problems exist that need to be addressed. It is not possible to divorce domestic policy from foreign policy issues. The Nunavut Land Claim Agreement contains areas in which interjurisdictional activities and negotiations are required, and which must be recognized in foreign policy creation.

Relationships and communication

Participants noted in diverse ways the importance of the relationship of northerners with each other, both nationally and in the circumpolar context, and with southerners of all nations. The importance of educating southerners to northern issues and realities, both those specific to the north and those that may have major impact on an unaware south, underlay many comments about education, barriers, etc.

Many felt that, by strengthening northern ties, we can increase the collective northern voice. Thus a strong voice coming from the circumpolar north may be able to exert a stronger impact on southern-dominated policy development in the various nations involved.

Also expressed was a need for increased cooperation. There are models of outside bodies, both nationally and internationally, that deal with tourism, for example, and include representation from all groups involved. We need such models and we need active lobby groups.

Research

Participants suggested a number of areas for consideration within the framework of developing northern foreign policy:

partnerships with other governments are one way to ensure that research knowledge is shared and that research is appropriate and required;

with current fiscal realities, it is essential to convince southerners that research is important and that the Arctic is an essential research area; international agreements help to focus attention and enhance importance;

another way to create a willingness among southerners is to educate them as to the impact of climate change, pollutants, etc: areas in which northern research is essential;

there is a need for a central information base on all research conducted in the Arctic;

traditional ecological knowledge is valid and important, and needs to be fully included in relevant research projects;

lack of existing research requires both short and long term research with long term financial commitment from national governments;

integrate research and communications to ensure information about planned research and results from previous research gets back to the communities and to use it to convince funding bodies, nationally and internationally, to continue their support.

Participants suggested that research appropriate to the North and its development should be the focus. Such areas include:

international fish and wildlife studies that incorporate traditional ecological knowledge
International studies of pollutants and contaminants: how they spread, where they originate, how to deal with, etc;

climactic change/weather studies.

Trade and economic development

Participants recommended that Canada should develop a northern trade policy that would:

be developed with northern input;

have rational rules, developed in consultation;

drop or reduce circumpolar trade barriers, particularly for Inuit;

promote trade in animal products: many species are tradable, but Canadian policy prevents it from happening;

work to counter or control outside influence groups, such as the anti-seal lobby;

negotiate to remove barriers such as those in US Marine Protection Act;

by developing markets and relationships, promote northern economic development, social and cultural well-being.

communications and transportation routes and links be looked at within the context of developing a circumpolar trade policy;

Canada should promote more direct contact among circumpolar nations via northern routes. Examples used included the recent Canada Post agreement with Greenland, and the suggestion that travel from the NWT to Alaska (or the Yukon) should not have to be routed via southern Canada.

Sectors that should be considered for promotion on an international level include cottage industries based on wildlife and traditional skills, and food processing businesses that rely on the harvesting of northern foods. Canada should also look to develop its expertise in areas such as land claim negotiation.

Sectors that need vigilance include the fishery. While it is becoming increasingly important to parts of Nunavut, there is increasing concern that overfishing in Arctic waters by international fisheries can endanger economic development. Shared stocks have led to ongoing communications with Greenland; Nunavut participates in several international fora on areas identified within the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement. Concerns were raised about Canada's inability to police its own waters.

Wildlife and resource management

Ideas generated for consideration within development of foreign policy:

Canada should promote pro-sealing/pro-fur initiatives, such as sealskin clothing manufacture and trade, that are based on renewable resources;

Canada should act, on the international scene, to promote and support legal activities of its citizens, such as the bowhead whale hunt;

Canada's northern population is small; this means it has limited influence. Canada should focus on promotion from all circumpolar countries to strengthen and learn from one another;

Canada should ensure that economic benefits from northern products come north (jobs, manufacturing, economic development);

Canada should look at American policies that are detrimental to northern activities;

Canada should look at overfishing in Arctic waters of the North Atlantic by foreign fishing fleets.

Participants List

Ben Kovic
Nunavut Wildlife management Board

Bernadette Macpah
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

Alicie Joamie
Elder

Ian Rose
Nunavut Arctic College

Joanasie Benjamin Arreak
Elder, retired RCMP

Kakkik Peter
High school student

Ken Toner
Bank of Montreal

Louis Courternanche
Royal Bank

Lynn Cousins
Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)

Cherry Kermp-Kinnear
Nunavut Tourism

Matthew Spence
Town Councillor, Baffin Business Development

Okalik Eegeesiak
Inuit Tapirisat of Canada

Peter Ittinuar
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development

Peter Johnson
Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies

Rory Ellsworth
QIA Youth

Steven Bill
High School Student

Don Morrison
Baffin Divisional Education Council

Peter Jacopoosie
BDEC

Annette Bourgeois
Nunatsiaq News

Carol Orr
Nunavut Tusaavut Inc.

Malachi Arreak, Chairman
Nunavut Tusaavut Inc.

Israel Mablick
Nunavut Tusaavut Inc.

Robert Contois
Quebec City National Forum Coordinator

Wayne Lord
DFAIT

Penny Kerrigan
CCFPD

LIBRARY E A / BIBLIOTHÈQUE A E



7 44824010 9305 3

Rory Ellsworth
QIA Youth

Steven Bill
High School Student

Don Morrison
Baffin Divisional Education Council

Peter Jacobson
BDEC

Anne Bourgeois
Nunavut News

Carol Orr
Nunavut Tassavut Inc.

Malachi Aniak, Chairman
Nunavut Tassavut Inc.

Israel Madick
Nunavut Tassavut Inc.

Robert Comois
Queen's City National

Wayne Ford
DEAT

Penny Kerrigan
CCFD

DOCS

CA1 EA752 98N36 ENG

National Forum on Canada's
Circumpolar Relations (1998)

Interim report 1998 National Forum
on Canada's Circumpolar Relations
summary of recommendations. --

17973163