

Acknowledgment and Thanks

The Canadian Arctic Resources Committee would like to thank the people who annually donate to CARC and those individuals who provide for CARC as a bequest from their estate. Without the support of these individuals the work of the Committee through the Arctic Futures Fund could not continue.

Our sincere thanks for the financial support provided by the sponsors for 2030 NORTH.

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We would like to also acknowledge the work and support of a number of people behind the scenes who worked to make the conference a success; Robbie Keith, former Chair and Executive Director for CARC; Terry Fenge, former Executive Director for CARC; Fred Weihs 2030 NORTH Conference facilitator; and the members of the 2030 NORTH Planning Committee, Patti Black, Bernie Funston, Belinda Webb, Kathleen Tagoona, and Chuck Birchall.

Conference papers, proceedings, unedited summaries, and documents are available at the CARC WEB site www.carc.org.

David Gladders, Executive Director, Canadian Arctic Resources Committee



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Introduction

Chuck Birchall, Chair, Canadian Arctic Resources Committee

On behalf of our conference co-hosts, the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, the University of Calgary's Centre for Military and Strategic Studies and the national Inuit organization the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, I am very pleased to welcome you to 2030 NORTH, the first national planning conference of its kind.

Beyond warnings of the timing and consequences of an ice-free Northwest Passage, northerners have yet to see a comprehensive picture of the socio-economic, cultural and environmental changes that will occur over the next 20 years and beyond.

This conference will: explore the full consequences of what is occurring in the Arctic and what people could be experiencing in 2030. Big picture, strategic thinking is urgently needed to establish long-term public policy objectives, programs, goals and values, replacing those developed in the 1980s and 1990s. This conference will: begin to build a new northern strategy that truly reflects the growing domestic and international importance of the Arctic.

The five original, commissioned papers will address the following key issues and opportunities facing the Arctic:

1. In the Grip of Climate Change: Circumpolar Canada 2030: exploring the range and cumulative effects of climate change impacts, the promise and limits of adaptation, and the role of the Canadian and circumpolar Arctic in developing and implementing national and global climate change policy.
2. The Pace of Change: exploring the nature and rate of change anticipated in the economic, environmental and social state of affairs in Yukon, NWT, Nunavut, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut to 2030.
3. Land Claim Agreements: the role of comprehensive land claims and Aboriginal self-government agreements in shaping the Arctic landscape: can we get it right?
4. A Northern Science Policy for Canada: what needs to be done, at what cost, and by whom, to establish a northern science policy in the context of Canadian and circumpolar needs and goals.
5. Canada's North – A New Strategy: the renewal and expansion of the Northern dimension to Canada's foreign policy.

Canada is waking up to the reality of a North transformed by climate change, challenges to northern sovereignty, and rapidly increasing natural resource exploration and development. But beyond vague and often contradictory messages about polar bears or the Northwest Passage, Canadians have no clear picture of what this will mean to their lands and waters, wildlife and peoples of the circumpolar world. **2030 NORTH** will assemble the best data and expertise in the world to create the first comprehensive picture of the Arctic 20 years from now - and beyond.

Canada's current northern presence, policies and programs were, for the most part, shaped years ago to meet the needs of a very different social, political and physical environment. Maintaining our

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claims to sovereignty and leadership will require a new vision for a new north - a comprehensive public policy agenda that recognizes and reflects the pivotal role of the Arctic, today and in 2030.

The Canadian Arctic Resources Committee (CARC), the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies (CMSS), and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) organized 2030 NORTH: a National Planning Conference, and brought together over 300 Aboriginal leaders, scientists, academics, policy makers, government representatives, NGOs, businesses, industry, foundations, and interested members of the public from Canada and the circumpolar world.

CARC national workshops traditionally assemble the best and most forward-thinking intellectual resources to consider public policy issues, to discuss these issues in a public forum, and to shape future debate and action through appropriate strategies and recommendations. 2030 NORTH adheres to this effective and proven approach.

The five original, commissioned papers on selected topics were presented in plenary by the author(s). Moderated panels provided comment on and response to the invited speakers. Key policy points and planning recommendations were developed in a series of facilitated, issue-specific workshops. Through discussion and analysis of five original, commissioned papers, participants generated the foundations of a comprehensive northern strategy and action plan to guide Canada forward to 2030, and beyond.

This was a historic week. What was accomplished together will affect the future of our northern peoples, Canada, and the world. Thanks to those who were a part of it.

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Conference Co-Hosts

Canadian Arctic Resources Committee (CARC)

Established in 1971-3, CARC is a well-respected non-partisan, public interest, research and advocacy organization. Composed of citizens committed to environmentally-responsible northern development, support for the rights of Aboriginal peoples, devolution of provincial-type authority to northern governments and increased international co-operation in the circumpolar world, CARC has a reputation for high quality research and public policy analyses, effective public communication and advocacy, and helping to set the public policy agenda. CARC has published more than 100 books, monographs, and conference proceedings, and continues to publish *Northern Perspectives*, a widely read policy journal.

CARC's first, second, third and fourth national workshops, held in 1973, 1978, 1983 and 2002 respectively, profoundly influenced the public policy agenda and yielded widely distributed, highly praised and often quoted workshop proceedings; the Government of Canada's 1986 Comprehensive Land Claims Policy, for example, owes much to the 1983 national workshop. The purpose of CARC's national workshops is not only to air significant northern science and policy research, but to bring this knowledge to bear on the development of public policy and concrete action. CARC's fourth national workshop "On Thinning Ice", held in 2002 was one of the first national conferences to explore the challenges of climate change in the north.

Charles Birchall, Chair of CARC, supported by a steering committee of key stakeholders, oversaw the development of the event. The Consilium Consulting Group, well known for their organization and management of many highly successful Aboriginal and northern events, coordinated the conference.

The Centre for Military and Strategic Studies (CMSS)

The Centre for Military and Strategic Studies (CMSS) at the University of Calgary is recognized as one of the University's premier research areas in the world. Part of the Faculty of Social Science at the University of Calgary, the Centre draws from numerous external departments such as Economics, Anthropology, Political Science, Geomatics and History, to name a few. With distinctive ties to the Canadian Forces, Department of National Defence and the Calgary business community, CMSS has been able to expand its presence at the University of Calgary, at numerous other academic institutions and with the Canadian government. The Centre remains part of a division of the Department of National Defence's Security and Defence Forum, a valuable network of Centres specializing in defence and security studies across Canada.

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, formerly Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, is the national voice of Canada's Inuit. Founded in 1971, the organization represents and promotes the interests of Inuit. In its history, ITK has been effective and successful at advancing Inuit interests by forging constructive and co-operative relationships with different levels of government in Canada, notably in the area of comprehensive land claim settlements, and representing Inuit during the constitutional talks of the 1980s.

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The “2030 NORTH” Concept

The Canadian and circumpolar Arctic is undergoing unparalleled economic, cultural and environmental transformation as a result of global climate change coupled with widespread natural resource exploration and development. Canada’s assertion of full sovereignty over the Northwest Passage and the efforts of Arctic Ocean rim nations to extend their interests and continental shelves in the Arctic Ocean exemplify the growing political and economic importance of the region.

The Government of Canada has begun again to address the national and foreign policy implications of the Arctic’s emergence as a politically and economically important region. However, thus far the initiatives have yet to reflect a comprehensive view or vision. A framework for coordination and inclusive decision-making is required to broaden and deepen the knowledge and perspectives that inform our Northern policies.

Canada’s political; policy, research and fiscal commitment to the region must now reflect the actual economic and environmental importance of the Arctic both domestically and internationally. We cannot move forward with an incremental, reactive and short-term approach to northern issues and policy. Big picture, strategic thinking is urgently needed to establish long-term public policy objectives, programs, goals and values, replacing those developed in the 1980s and 1990s. This can only be achieved through coordinated interagency and intergovernmental action. The challenge for northerners and Canada is to build a northern strategy that reflects the growing domestic and international importance of the Arctic.

There is a consensus that developing and implementing a northern strategy is not a task to be undertaken solely by the Government of Canada. Territorial and provincial governments, Aboriginal northerners, scientists, academics and other stakeholders will each play a significant role in shaping a relevant, coordinated and comprehensive approach to guide social, political and economic development for the next two decades.

Conference Co-Chairs and Keynote Speaker

Mary Simon, Co-Chair

Mary Simon has served as President of ITK since July 2006. She was the Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade from 1994 to 2003; the Canadian Ambassador to Denmark (1999-2001); a member of the Joint Public Advisory Committee of NAFTA's Commission on Environmental Cooperation (1997-2000), and has received honorary doctorate of law degrees from McGill, Queen's and Trent Universities.

Ms. Simon has received many honours for her leadership in developing strategies for Aboriginal and Northern affairs. She was awarded the Order of Canada, National Order of Quebec, the Gold Order of Greenland, the National Aboriginal Achievement Award and the Gold Medal of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. She is a Fellow of the Arctic Institute of North America and of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society.

Tony Penikett, Co-Chair

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Tony Penikett has over 25 years of experience in both federal and provincial politics, serving as Premier of Yukon (1985-1992), Deputy Minister of Negotiations and Deputy Minister of Labour for the British Columbia government; Senior Policy Advisor, Cabinet Planning Unit for the Saskatchewan government; and member for Whitehorse West, Yukon Legislative Assembly.

After leaving politics, Mr. Penikett moved south to British Columbia where he is a senior fellow on native treaty issues at Simon Fraser University teaching courses in negotiation. From 2001 to September 2004, he was the Gordon Foundation Senior Fellow at the Centre for Dialogue, Simon Fraser University. Currently a Vancouver based mediator Mr. Penikett is the author of: "Reconciliation: First Nations Treaty Making in British Columbia," Douglas & McIntyre, 2006, and "Breaking Trail, Trafford, 2005.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Keynote Speaker

Sheila Watt-Cloutier has been a political spokesperson for Inuit for over a decade. She is the past Chair of Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), the organization that represents internationally the 155,000 Inuit of Canada, Greenland, Alaska, and Chukotka in the Far East of the Federation of Russia, and was Corporate Secretary of Makivik Corporation. Ms. Watt-Cloutier was instrumental as a spokesperson for a coalition of northern Indigenous Peoples in the global negotiations that led to the 2001 Stockholm Convention banning the generation and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) that contaminate the arctic food web.

Ms. Watt-Cloutier received the inaugural Global Environment Award from the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations in recognition for her POPs work. She is also the recipient of the 2004 Aboriginal Achievement Award for Environment. In 2005, she was honoured with the United Nations Champion of the Earth Award and the Sophie prize in Norway. Later in the year, the outgoing Governor General of Canada, Adrienne Clarkson, presented her with the inaugural Northern Medal. In December 2006 Sheila was made an Officer in the Order of Canada, and in 2007 was publicly nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, and received the Rachel Carson Prize.

Ms. Watt-Cloutier sums up her work by saying: "I do nothing more than remind the world that the Arctic is not a barren land devoid of life but a rich and majestic land that has supported our resilient culture for millennia. Even though small in number and living far from the corridors of power, it appears that the wisdom of the land strikes a universal chord on a planet where many are searching for sustainability."