



# Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy: Proactiveness or Isolationism under Stephen Harper?

**4th International Conference:**

**'Innovative & Safe Cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region'**

**23 May 2014**

**Karelian Research Centre of the Russia Academy of Sciences, Petrozavodsk, Russia**

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# Introduction: Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy & Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council



## CANADA'S ARCTIC FOREIGN POLICY

provides the international platform from which to project our national interests in the world across all four pillars of the Northern Strategy: EXERCISING OUR SOVEREIGNTY, PROMOTING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, PROTECTING THE ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT, AND IMPROVING AND DEVOLVING GOVERNANCE. We will pursue our interests at the international level through leadership and stewardship.

## OUR APPROACH

- ▶ Canada will show leadership and work with others to demonstrate responsible stewardship to build a region responsive to Canadian interests and values, secure in the knowledge that the North is our home and our destiny.
- ▶ Canada will maintain control of our Arctic lands and waters and will respond when others take actions that affect our national interests.
- ▶ Canada will never waver from our commitment to protect our North. Cooperation, diplomacy, and respect for international law will remain hallmarks of Canada's approach.

I heard a clear message during all of my domestic and international consultations: the well-being and prosperity of people living in the North must be at the forefront of Canada's Arctic Council priorities.

### Canada's Arctic Council Chairmanship

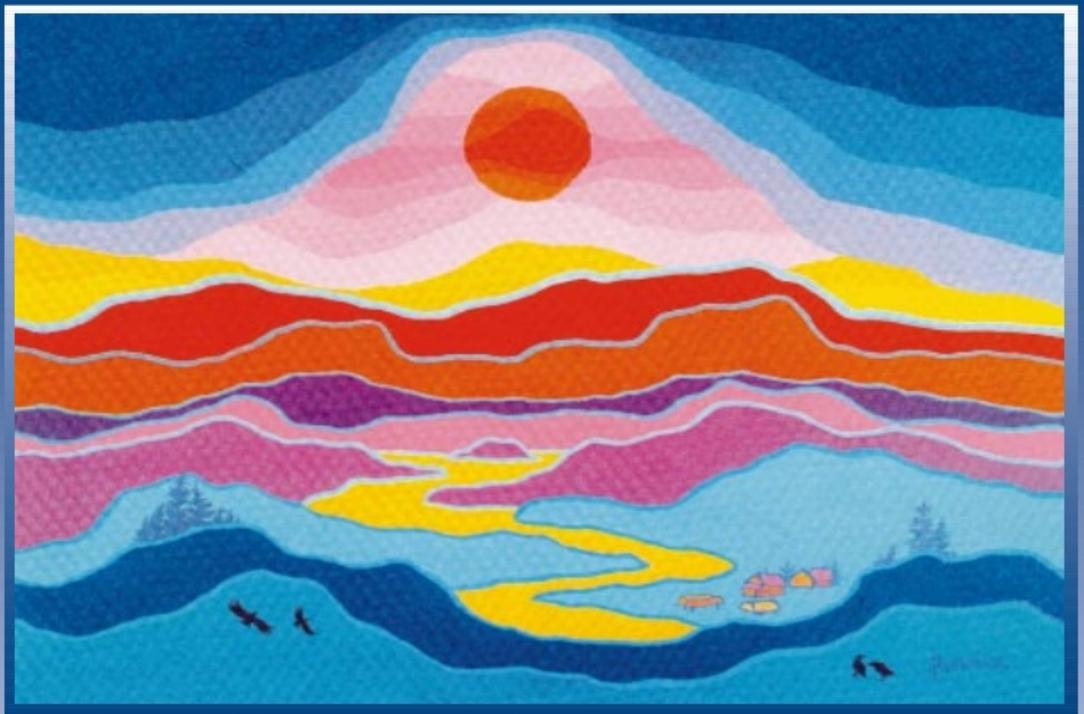
That is why I'm excited to tell you that the overarching theme of our chairmanship will be **Development *for* the People of the North.**

## Arctic Council Chair: 2013-2015:

- Strengthening the Arctic Council
- Responsible Arctic Resource Development
- Sustainable circumpolar communities
- Safe Arctic Shipping

# Arctic Cooperation: A priority since the 1990s

- Defining Canada's Arctic Zone
- Wording Arctic identity
- Writing a Circumpolar Agenda



## The Northern Dimension of Canada's Foreign Policy

*A clearly defined  
Northern Dimension  
of Canada's Foreign Policy  
will establish a framework to  
promote the extension  
of Canadian interests  
and values, and will renew  
the government's commitment  
to co-operation with our own  
northern peoples and with  
our circumpolar neighbours  
to address shared issues  
and responsibilities.*

**2000**

1970s - 2000s: Canada  
'maturing' alone



## Canada's Northern Strategy

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## Canada's Northern Strategy

### Our North, Our Heritage, Our Future: Canada's Northern Strategy

Canada's North is a fundamental part of Canada – it is part of our heritage, our future and our identity as a country.

The Government has a vision for a new North and is taking action to ensure that vision comes to life – for the benefit of all Canadians.

To meet the challenges and opportunities of a changing North, the Government has established a comprehensive Northern Strategy and is taking concrete action in four priority areas:

- **Exercising our Arctic sovereignty**
- **Protecting our environmental heritage**
- **Promoting social and economic development**
- **Improving and devolving Northern governance**

World-leading Arctic science and technology underpin the Northern Strategy and help ensure sound decision-making.

The Government is committed to helping the North realize its true potential as a healthy, prosperous and secure region within a strong and sovereign Canada.

2007

### Putting the Arctic on the Agenda

- 'New' role for Canadian Forces
- Economic development as a priority (extractive industries)
- Domestic focused document

# Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy: Intentions, Goals and



1. Arctic remains huge challenge for Canada as a state (geography)
  - Being an Arctic state
  - Burden (and costs) of climate change impacts
  - Growing domestic/regional security/responsibilities
2. 'Environmental' & human security remain core element (more than ever?)
3. Northernness is key to national interest (getting the human/cultural priority through)
  - Identity
  - Economic security
  - Economic prosperity (northerners)
4. Continent Extends North: Canada-US logic applies here
  - Extending bilateral military cooperation North
5. Promoting/supporting subnationalism and subnational economies

## ... also (missed) Opportunities

6. Public circumpolar diplomacy: neighbourhoodness/isolationism?
7. Empowering Canadians
8. EU
9. United States
10. Russia/Russians (rhetoric and laziness)



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