

Preface

The Arctic is undergoing change at a startling pace, in the near future, there is an inevitable development that has ramifications for the Canadian north. Canadian Arctic policy is faced with some of the most intriguing, yet complex, challenges in its history. Never before has the very nature of the Canadian Arctic region been altered by such a widespread set of factors. Perhaps the greatest current challenge for Canada is the worldwide realization that the Arctic is melting, and so it is more accessible than ever before. Consequently, Canada must prepare for the outside world's entry into the Arctic. With international challenges to Canadian control of the region now emerging, Canada needs to ensure it has healthy northern communities. But it also needs to ensure that the international community respects Canadian interests.

Notes

The arctic issue is an essential part of the foreign policy of Canada. Its economic development is in Canada's best interest, as the impact of unleashing of the resource-based potential of the North is tremendous. Canada will enhance its national sovereignty, protect the land, airspace and territorial waters, all in the terms of the environmental protection of the unique Northern environment. Furthermore, Canada is willing to focus more on improving the living standards of the Inuit.

Regarding the political division, Canada agreed to stick to the United Nations Convention (UNCLOS) on the Law of the Sea. Canada distinguishes six maritime zones according to the UNCLOS and is willing to focus on the Exclusive Economic Zone and proposes to extend Canada's territorial waters in the Arctic to 200 nautical miles, to both assert Canadian sovereignty over shipping and to enforce anti-pollution rules. The main change would be that all ships bound for the Canadian Arctic would have to report to Canadian authorities.

Canada, as a signatory to the Arctic Treaty agreed to ensure that in the interest of the all mankind Arctic shall continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and shall not become the scene or object of the international discord.

Canada have indicated that it will be respectful of the northern interests of other Arctic nations, only as long as these interests do not conflict with its own. Natural resources coming under the jurisdiction of its arctic territory will be an object of the scientific research, exploitation and subsequent yielding.

Regarding the Canadian Northwest Passage and the Russian Northern Sea Route, Canadian government recently made it mandatory for all foreign vessels entering Canadian Arctic

waters to report their presence. This allows Canadian officials to ensure that these vessels are operating in compliance with our Arctic environmental laws and regulations.

Canada is equally concerned about climate change, environmental protection, strict pollution regulation and new fishing trends in northern waters and is committed to the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act. Building of the Arctic Research Centre for the Incessant Cooperation (ARCTIC), active under the Arctic Council is not considered as a priority and shall be an object of the further negotiations.

Canada shall ensure protection of cultures, eco-systems and livelihood and dignity of the Autochthonous inhabitants by following the UN Declaration of the rights of indigenous peoples and the Nuuk declaration. Furthermore Canada is willing to participate on the education of the autochthonous people in order to help them overcome changes rising from the ongoing transformation of their living environment.

Canada agrees on establishing one legal complex binding document concerning the key areas: territorial issues and natural resources.

Delegation of Canada