



Foreign Affairs and  
International Trade Canada

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Canada



# Canadian Perspectives on a Changing Arctic

Opening conference for the Centre for Innovation and Research in  
Culture and Learning in the Arctic (CIRCLA)  
Aalborg, 21 August 2012

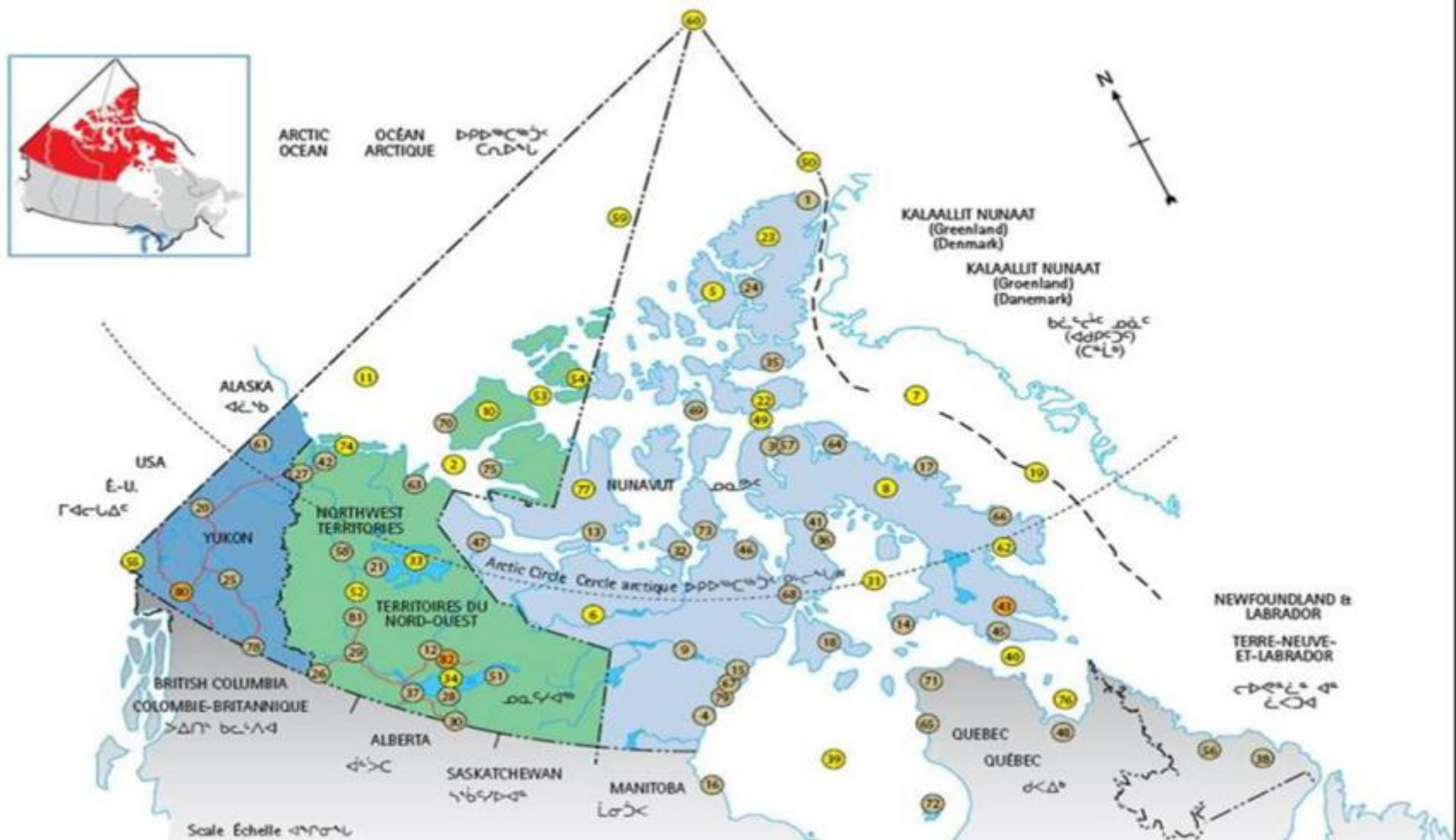
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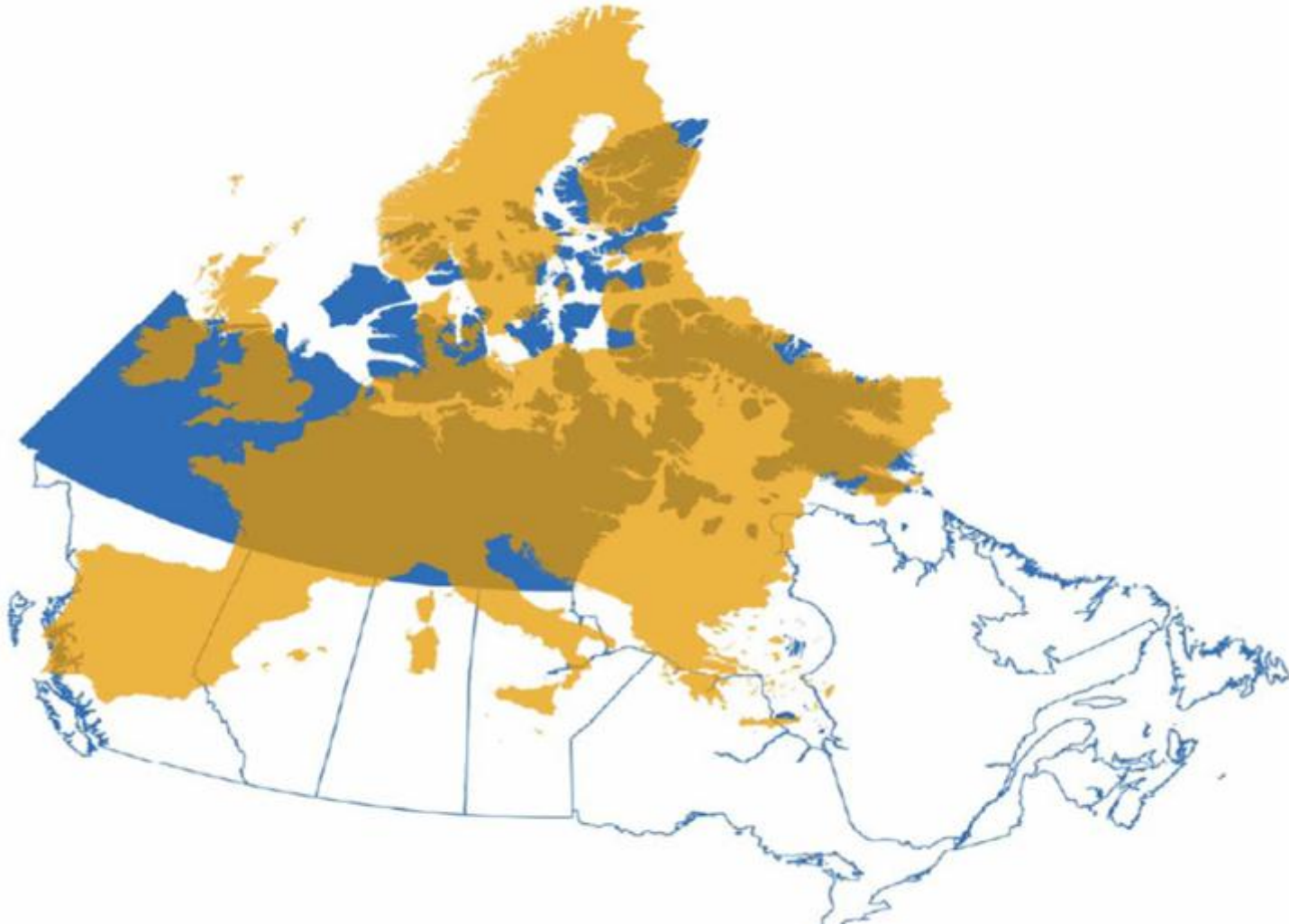
# Our Vision for the Canadian Arctic

- Canada's North is first and foremost about people – the Inuit, other Aboriginal peoples & Northerners who have made the North their home.
- The Government of Canada has a clear vision for the Arctic as a stable, rules-based region with:
  - clearly defined boundaries,
  - dynamic economic growth and trade,
  - vibrant Northern communities, and
  - healthy and productive ecosystems.

# A Portrait of Canada's North



# A Comparison – Europe Overlay



# The People of Canada's North

## ➤ **Inuit:**

- Strong historic presence in the Arctic
- Established own territory of Nunavut in 1999
- Young population – 35% under 15
- In 2000,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Inuit adults hunted, fished or gathered

## ➤ **Other Aboriginal Peoples:**

- Dene, Gwich'in, Cree & Métis
- Aboriginal Population: Yukon – 25%,  
Northwest Territories – 51%, Nunavut – 80%

## ➤ **Non-Aboriginal Residents**



Photo: Paul Vecsei

# Statement on Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy

International Platform for the Four Pillars of  
Canada's Northern Strategy

Sovereignty

Economic  
and Social  
Development

Environmental  
Protection

Governance



# Exercising our Sovereignty

- Canada's Arctic sovereignty is longstanding, well established and based on historic title.
- Exercising our sovereignty includes:
  - Seeking to resolve boundary issues
  - Securing international recognition for the full extent of our extended continental shelf
  - Providing governance and responsible stewardship
  - Advancing the operations of the Canadian forces

## Key Initiatives

### Strengthening Our Presence

- Procuring a new Polar Icebreaker, new Arctic & Offshore Patrol Ships
- Expansion & modernization of the Canadian Rangers
- Establishing a Canadian Forces Army Training Centre in Resolute Bay
- Establishing a deep-water berthing and fuelling facility in Nanisivik
- Ongoing military exercises and surveillance operations such as Operation Nanook
- Launching RADARSAT II satellite

# Promoting Social and Economic Development

- Canada is actively promoting Northern economic and social development
- Sustainable development that benefits Northerners
- Taking steps to create the appropriate international conditions for sustainable development in the Arctic
- Continuing to seek trade and investment opportunities that benefit Northerners and all Canadians

## Key Initiatives

- New Economic Development Agency for the North (CanNor)
- Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative
- Geo-mapping in the North to inform & guide private sector mineral & petroleum exploration
- Support for the Mackenzie Gas Project
- Tourism promotion, community cultural & heritage institutions
- Commercial fisheries harbour in Pangnirtung
- \$200 million for social housing in the North.
- Aboriginal Skills & Employment Partnership Program
- Improving territorial health systems

# Protecting our Environmental Heritage

- Promoting an ecosystem-based management approach.
- Promoting and strengthening international standards addressing climate change and environmental protection.
- Strengthening Arctic science and the legacy of the International Polar Year “from knowledge to action.”

## Key Initiatives

- Protecting northern waters and land.
- Establishing conservation areas & national parks, NWT.
- Robust regulations in place for operational industries in Arctic Canada. (NEB)

## Addressing Climate Change

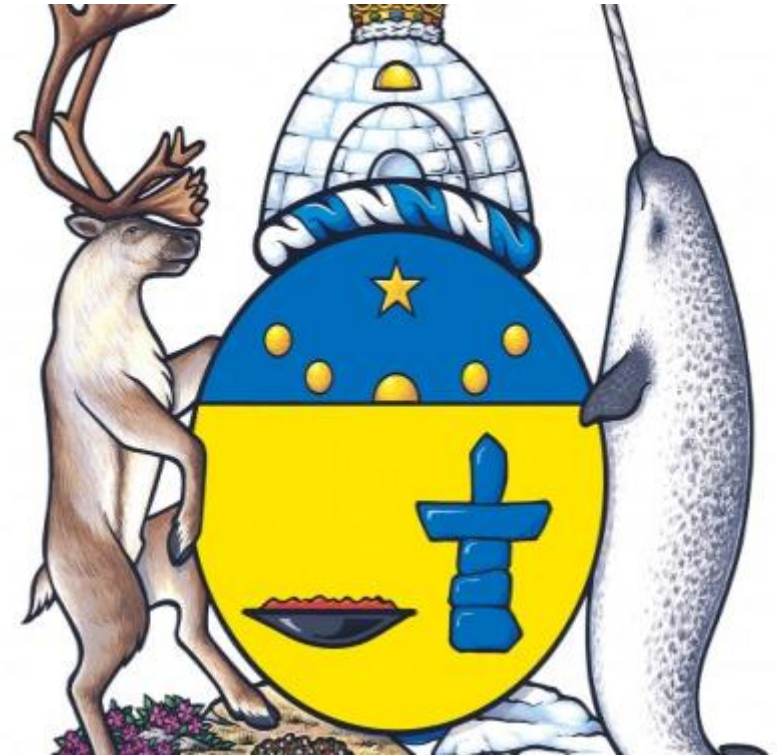
- World leader, carbon capture & storage.
- Clean Energy Fund & Green Infrastructure Fund, clean energy technologies & green infrastructure initiatives.

# Canadian Arctic Science

- Work is under way to establish a world-class High Arctic Research Station (CHARS) in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut
- Canada provided the largest single country investment (\$156 million) for International Polar Year (IPY) research.
- Canada hosted *IPY Conference Montreal 2012: From Knowledge to Action*.
- ArcticNet received a \$65 million renewal over seven years in Budget 2012.
- Canadian Polar Commission - Canada's national institution for furthering polar knowledge and awareness
- \$85M to maintain or upgrade key Arctic research facilities.

# Improving and Devolving Governance

- The Government shares a common goal with Northerners – that Northerners have greater control over their destinies.
- Three Northern Territories: Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon.
- The Government of Canada has transferred decision-making powers to territorial governments to help realize aspirations of Northerners, increase local decision-making.
- Aboriginal land claims, self-government agreements are well advanced.



Nunavut Coat of Arms

# Canada's Arctic Relationships

- Pursuing a strengthened Arctic Council
  - Promoting greater policy dialogue & coordination;
  - Greater communications and outreach;
  - Ensuring that research continues to focus on key emerging issues.
- Enhancing Key Bilateral Relationships
- Working through relevant multilateral institutions



# Nuuk Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council - 2011

- Search and Rescue Agreement signed – first legally binding agreement under the Council
- International instrument on Arctic marine oil pollution preparedness and response
- Strengthening the Arctic Council:
  - Role and Criteria for Observers
  - Secretariat established in Tromsø, NO
  - Enhanced communications & outreach



# Conclusions

- Cooperation, diplomacy, and respect for international law.
- Acceptance of and respect for the perspectives and knowledge of Northerners and Arctic states' sovereignty.
- Recognition that the Arctic states remain best placed to exercise leadership in the management of the region.
- Canada will never waver in our commitment to protect the North, and keep it Canada's "true North, strong and free."



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**Kugluktuk, Nunavut 17**

# Hans Island

