

The background features a large, stylized maple leaf in shades of brown and white on the left side. To the right, there is a dark blue world map. The overall design is clean and professional, with a focus on Canadian identity and international relations.

Canadian Perspectives on a Changing Arctic

**Pacific NorthWest Economic Region
Arctic Caucus Leadership Forum
December 2010**



Table of Contents

- Canada's Vision for the Arctic
- Canada's Northern Strategy & Arctic Foreign Policy Statement
 - Exercising our sovereignty
 - Promoting economic and social development
 - Protecting our environmental heritage
 - Improving and devolving governance
- Canada-US Collaboration in the Arctic



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 - A stable, rules-based region with:
 - clearly defined boundaries,
 - dynamic economic growth and trade,
 - vibrant Northern communities, and
 - healthy and productive ecosystems.

Statement on Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy

International platform for the four pillars of Canada's Northern Strategy:



Sovereignty

Exercising our Arctic sovereignty as international interest in the region increases.

Economic and Social Development

Encouraging social and economic development and regulatory improvements that benefit Northerners.

Environmental Protection

Adapting to climate change challenges and ensuring sensitive Arctic ecosystems are protected for future generations.

Governance

Providing Northerners with more control over their economic and political destiny.



Exercising our Sovereignty

The Arctic is a fundamental symbol of Canadian identity.

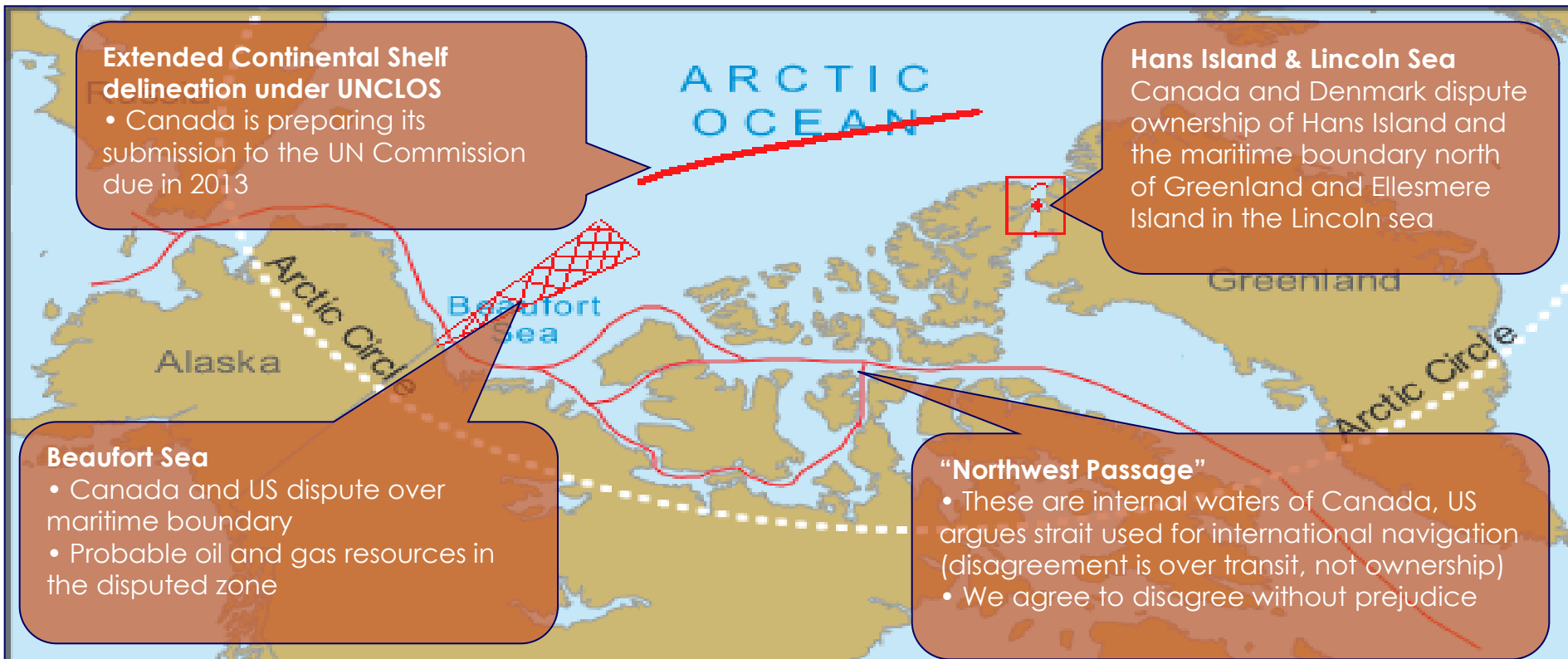
- Canada's Arctic sovereignty is longstanding, well established and based on historic title.
- Exercising our sovereignty includes:
 - Seeking to resolve boundary issues
 - Securing international recognition for the full extent of our extended continental shelf
 - Providing governance and responsible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

Legal Issues in the Arctic



- Canada has three discrete boundary disputes in the Arctic – all are well-managed
- Arctic nations repeatedly confirm importance of international law in resolving disputes
- Number of non-security based issues linked with foreign cruise ships, tourism and implications for search and rescue, spills, shipping safety
- Important to strengthen stewardship role in the North

Extended Continental Shelf



2007



Public Safety

- Increased access will bring more traffic and people to the region.
- Canada and Arctic Ocean coastal states will be most affected by public safety challenges and are preparing to respond.
- Development of a legally binding Arctic Search and Rescue instrument in the Arctic Council.
- Mandatory regime for shipping in polar waters in the International Maritime Organization.





Promoting Economic & Social Development

The Government of Canada is helping to create a vibrant Northern economy, with safe, healthy and prosperous communities.

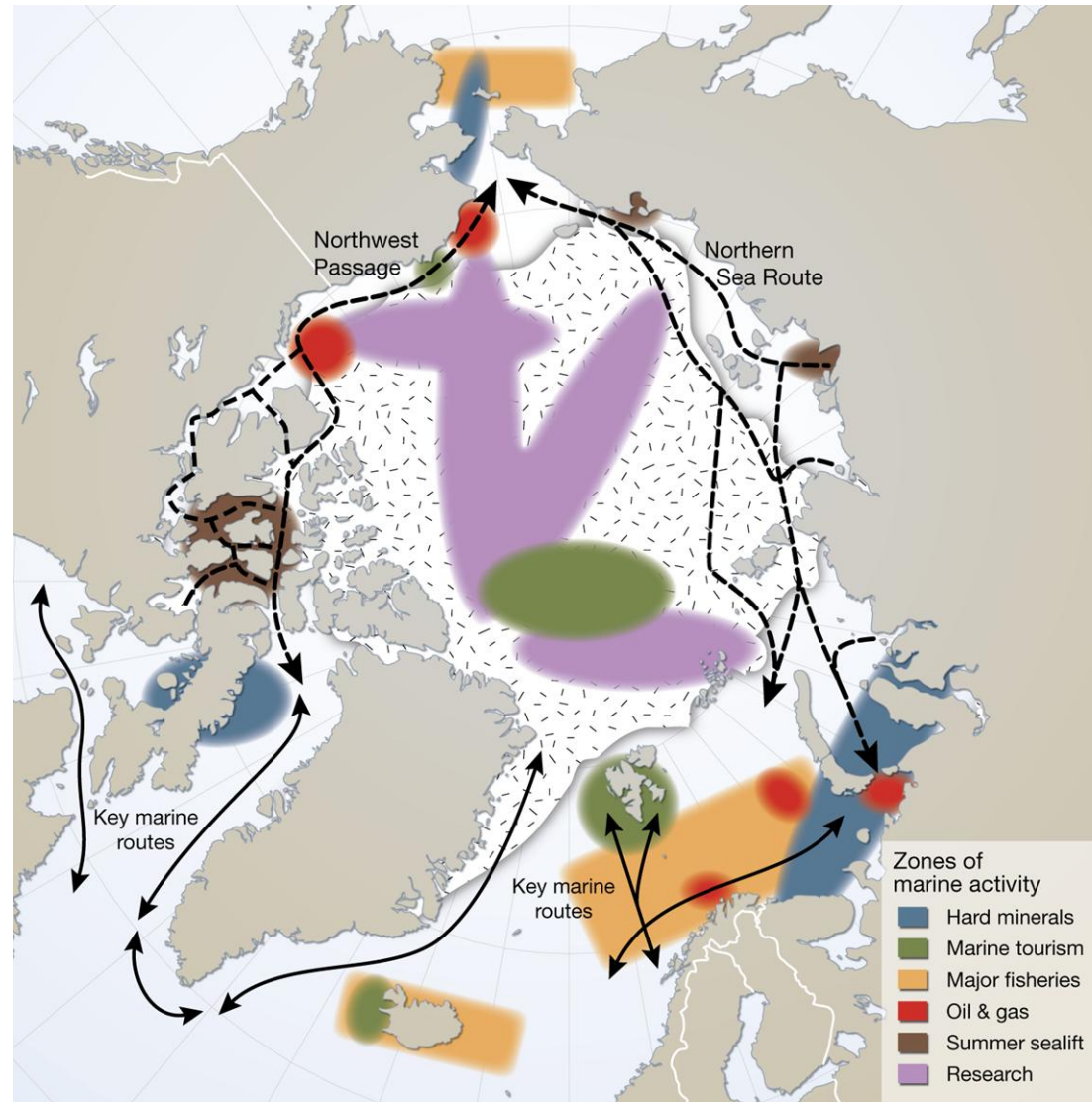
- Canada is actively promoting Northern economic and social development
- Sustainable development that benefits Northerners
- Great potential for wealth and job creation
- Taking steps to create the appropriate international conditions for sustainable development in the Arctic
- Continuing to seek trade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

Key Initiatives:

- New Economic Development Agency for the North
- 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

Arctic Shipping

- Northwest Passage not likely to be a reliable commercial shipping route for decades.
- Canada acting now to anticipate challenges:
 - Application of the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act expanded to exercise strict pollution prevention measures in ice-covered waters.
 - Mandatory ship reporting (NORDREG) implemented for vessels destined for Canada's Arctic waters within 200-mile limit.
 - Seeking the timely adoption of a mandatory regime for shipping in polar waters in the International Maritime Organization.



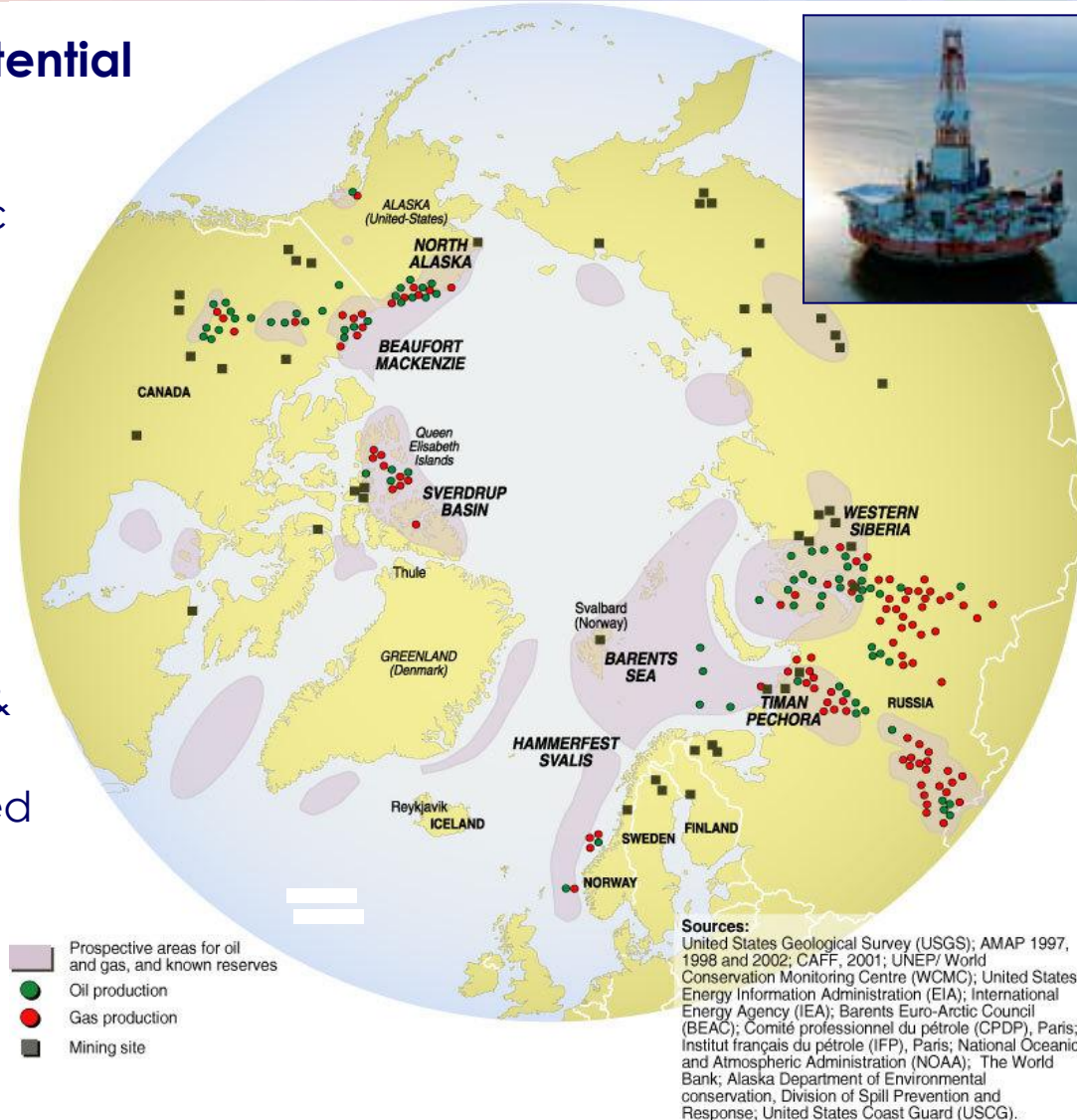
Oil and Gas

Tremendous natural resource potential

- Approx. 13% of world's undiscovered oil and 30% undiscovered gas lies under Arctic seabed
- Approx. 97% of Arctic oil & gas production occurs in Alaska & Northern Russia
- ~1/3 of Canada's hydro-carbon potential remains untapped

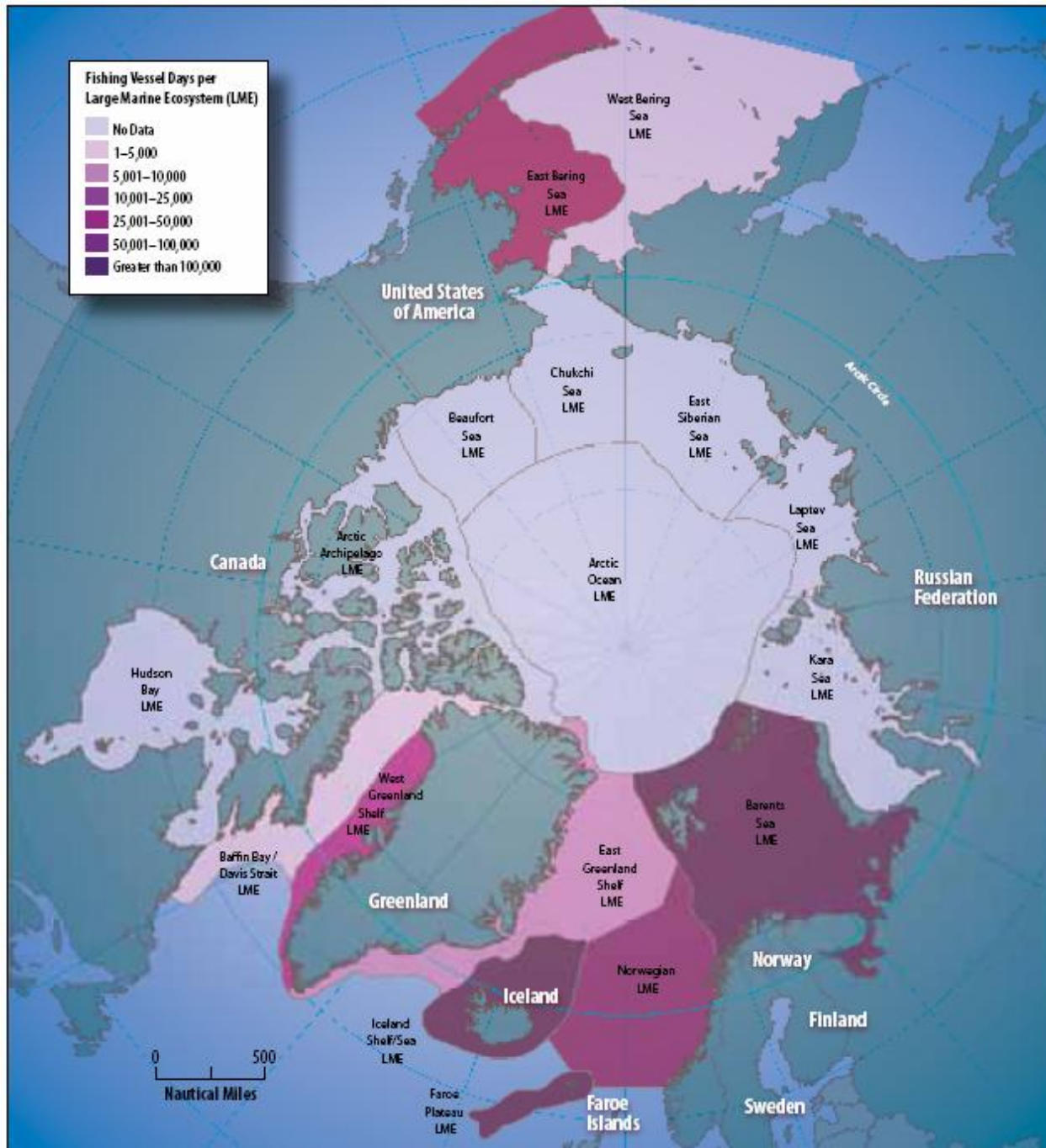
Offshore Oil and Gas

- There is currently no off-shore oil & gas drilling in Canada's Arctic.
- National Energy Board announced review of Arctic safety and environmental offshore drilling requirements post-Deepwater Horizon.
- Implementation of the Arctic Council Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines



Arctic Fisheries

- All known fish stocks are within national jurisdictions.
- Commercial fishing in the Arctic Ocean is not imminent.
- Further scientific research into the state & nature of fish stocks and their ecosystems is required.



Map 5.3 Fishing vessel activity. Source: AMSA



Protecting our Environmental Heritage

Canada is committed to ensuring that the fragile & unique ecosystems of the North are safeguarded for future generations.

- Promoting an ecosystem-based management approach
- Contributing to and supporting international efforts to address climate change
- Promoting and strengthening international standards
- Strengthening Arctic science and the legacy of the International Polar Year

Key Initiatives:

Protecting Northern waters and lands

- Establishing conservation areas & national parks, creating & expanding protected areas – NWT

Addressing Climate Change

- Helping communities adapt through the ecoEnergy for Aboriginal & Northern Communities program, which supports clean energy projects.
- Clean Energy Fund & Green Infrastructure Fund - clean energy technologies & green infrastructure initiatives
- World leader - carbon capture & storage
- 90% of Canada's electricity to be provided by non-emitting sources by 2020.

Improving and Devolving Governance

- Providing opportunities for Northerners to actively participate in shaping Canadian foreign policy on Arctic issues
- Continue to support Canadian Indigenous Permanent Participant organizations at the Arctic Council;
- Provide Canadian youth with opportunities to participate in the circumpolar dialogue.



Minister of Foreign Affairs Lawrence Cannon, Canadian Permanent Participants and former Canadian Senior Arctic Official, Arctic Council Ministerial – April 2009

The Arctic Council

- A consensus-based, high level intergovernmental forum that works to promote the environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development in the Arctic region.
- **Member States:** Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States
- **Permanent Participants** - Six international indigenous people's organizations: Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC), Aleut International Association (AIA), Gwich'in Council International (GCI), Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC), Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) & Saami Council.
- **Denmark** is the current Chair. Next Ministerial-level meeting taking place in Nuuk, Greenland in May 2011.
- **Canada** to Chair in 2013, followed by the US.



ARCTIC COUNCIL



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;
 - Engaging with Arctic Council states to clarify the criteria for permanent observer status for non-Arctic states
- **Working through relevant multilateral institutions**
- **Enhancing Key Bilateral Relationships**



Canada-US Collaboration in the Arctic

■ **Transportation:**

- Highway Collaboration: US, Canada, Alaska & Yukon have formal agreements to build & maintain highway linkages
- Arctic Marine Collaboration: Transport Canada works with the US Coast Guard to share information about vessel risk, on-vessel incidence, shipping activity, & design criteria.

■ **Joint Military Operations:**

- Canada Command & United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) operate jointly
- NORAD
- Operation NANOOK 2010

■ **Arctic Research:**

- Joint Canada - United States Extended Continental Shelf Surveys
- Yukon collaboration with the Alaska University Transportation Center (AUTC) on permafrost research related to highways, including on the Alaska Highway.

■ **Disaster and Emergency Response:** Yukon Flood of 2009

■ **Indigenous & Northern Issues:** March 2010 MOU

www.circumpolar.gc.ca

