

Introduction

Greg Poelzer and Colleen Cameron

The articles contained in this collection are revised and updated versions of papers first presented at a symposium in March 2009 in Saskatoon, at the University of Saskatchewan, by the award winners of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Circumpolar Affairs Fellowship program. The fellows represent a wide diversity of young, emerging scholars from across Canada, and the future generation of Canadian Arctic scholars. We are very pleased to present these papers in this issue of the *Northern Review*. The articles you will find in the following pages all share a common theme—they explore the Government of Canada’s historic Arctic positions and policies, and then look to build on the lessons learned. Environmental realities and the intensifying geopolitical climate have led to a new era of intensified debate around Arctic management, development, and sovereignty.

These articles highlight ways in which the government can leverage its strong nationalistic ties to the North into strong Arctic policies. As Canada prepares to assume its role as chair of the Arctic Council (2013), there has never been a better time to assume a leadership role in influencing the formation and implementation of forward-thinking Arctic policy.

There’s no question that the Arctic has been a strong source of national identity for all of Canada. The authors of the following articles argue that it’s time to use that sense of pride as the foundation for strong Arctic policies that explicitly address the issues of natural resource management, foreign co-operation, governance, and environmental concerns.

Collaboration—internal and external—is another common theme among the six articles. Taking into consideration the priorities of foreign states with claims to Arctic territory, as well as the challenges presented within Canada from Canada’s territorial governments and northern Indigenous groups, will require diplomacy and patience. While it is certainly the time to develop a sound set of policies around Arctic governance and development, it is critical that the impact of these policies—on all involved communities—is afforded the proper attention. Introducing an Arctic platform that does not consider all interests will end up being blocked at every impasse and will serve the interests of no one.

In François Perreault's "The Arctic Linked to the Emerging Dominant Ideas in Canada's Foreign and Defence Policy," you will see an examination of how the approach to Arctic issues has evolved and will continue to do so. Perreault puts forth the idea that Canada is trading in traditional internationalism for continentalism, and asks readers to consider what that means.

In "Canadian Leadership in the Circumpolar World: An Agenda for the Arctic Council Chairmanship 2013–2015," Heather Exner-Pirot makes a pitch for the Canadian government to make the most of its soon-to-be leadership role on the Arctic Council. She makes a strong case for the ways in which Canada should prepare to make the most of its chairmanship and seize the opportunity to benefit economically, politically, and environmentally. The article goes on to highlight specific issues that should be promoted in the lead-up to chairmanship, including search and rescue, fisheries management, shipping regulations, and regional seas agreements.

"Rising Above the Rhetoric: Northern Voices and the Strengthening of Canada's Capacity to Maintain a Stable Circumpolar World," by Peter Kikkert, presents a notion that the growing sense of alarmism in Canada about the Arctic may have led to the marginalization of the northern voice. Kikkert's paper uses interviews with key stakeholders to interpret the true northern perspective on where the Arctic Council should direct its energy.

In Joël Plouffe's "Canada's *Tous Azimuts* Arctic Foreign Policy," it is advanced that Canada must clearly define their strategic objectives and plans to develop and govern the Arctic or risk losing credibility and international influence on the file. Plouffe urges the Canadian government to make the establishment of a clear vision, and the communicating of that vision, a top priority.

The article entitled "Political Climate Change: The Evolving Role of the Arctic Council," by Alison Ronson, is another look at the potential inherent in the Arctic Council for managing political and diplomatic relations. She proposes the creation of a working group on the management of political affairs to deal more effectively with this important aspect of Arctic development.

The final article, Lisa Williams' "Canada, the Arctic, and Post-National Identity in the Circumpolar World," explores how Canada's ties to the Arctic as part of its national identity need not be in conflict with domestic and international Arctic policy. The Canadian government should

incorporate this nationalism and use it as the foundation for the creation of a Canadian circumpolar identity.

The most important thing to take from each of the following papers is an informed analysis of the current Arctic environment and the opportunities that are available for the Canadian government to seize—especially vis-à-vis the Arctic Council as we prepare to assume chairmanship. We have never been better placed to influence all invested circumpolar parties.

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