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2015


DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH

Results achieved during
Canada's **ARCTIC COUNCIL**
Chairmanship 
2013-2015



ARCTIC COUNCIL



A smiling man in traditional Arctic clothing, including a parka with a fur collar and a knit hat, stands in a snowy landscape. He is holding a long wooden pole with a crossbar at the top. The background is a bright, snowy field.

Learn more about the work and the activities of the Arctic Council by visiting the Council's website and connecting on social media:

www.arctic-council.org

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www.international.gc.ca/arctic-arctique

Cat. No.: FR5-92/2015

ISBN: 978-0-662-03907-5



DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH

Results achieved during
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As an Inuk born and raised in Canada's North, I am proud of the Arctic Council's accomplishments during Canada's Chairmanship. Our theme of Development for the People of the North has put people first, addressing issues that matter to the over four million people who call the Arctic home.

Under Canada's Chairmanship, the Arctic Council has taken action to improve the lives of Northerners. We have focused on actions that promote economic and social development while protecting the Arctic environment. We have established the Arctic Economic Council, an independent body made up of business representatives facilitating Arctic-to-Arctic business opportunities, trade and investment in the North, which will ultimately benefit Northern families and communities. We have also supported healthy and resilient communities by promot-



The Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, Minister for the Arctic Council, speaking at the Ninth Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council, which was held in Iqaluit on April 24-25, 2015.

ing mental wellness, traditional and local knowledge, and traditional ways of life. Among our many environmental achievements, we have worked to reduce climate pollutants and to prevent marine oil pollution in the Arctic. Recognizing the importance of efforts to strengthen the Council, we have also worked to enhance the voices of the Council's indigenous members, engaged our youth and raised public awareness and understanding of the Council's activities to the world.


As its 20th anniversary approaches, the Arctic Council continues to evolve. It is increasingly influencing and shaping Arctic policy, while still producing ground-breaking scientific assessments to promote economic and social development and environmental protection in the region. These changes are allowing the Council to better respond to the needs of Northerners.

Over the course of Canada's Chairmanship, we were pleased to host a record number of Arctic Council meetings in the Canadian North, which enabled us to highlight and celebrate our dynamic and vibrant North, and honour our peoples, our culture and our stories.

Canada's Chairmanship has been built on collaboration with the Arctic states and the Council's indigenous Permanent Participant organizations, with individuals and groups around the circumpolar north, and with Canadian federal and territorial government partners.

We look forward to building on the results achieved under Canada's Chairmanship in the coming years, in continued collaboration with our Arctic partners.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leona Aglukkaq', written in a cursive style.

Minister for the Arctic Council
Government of Canada

BUILDING ON OUR COMMITMENT TO THE NORTH

Canada's commitment to the North and its people is part of our national identity.

Canada played a key role in the origin of the Arctic Council, which was established by the 1996 Ottawa Declaration. Canada was the first Chair of the Arctic Council, and hosted the first Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Iqaluit in 1998. Arctic Council Ministers returned to Iqaluit in April 2015, marking the conclusion of Canada's second term as Chair.

Under Canada's Chairmanship (2013-2015), the Council has focused on making a difference in the lives of the people of the North, reflecting the Ottawa Declaration's commitment to economic and social development and environmental protection. The Council's achievements in these areas over the last two years will help ensure a vibrant future for the Arctic region.

The Council's key outcomes during Canada's two-year term as Chair included:

- Setting a course to more consistently use traditional and local knowledge of Arctic communities in the work of the Council;
- Sharing best practices to improve mental wellness, particularly among youth, for the benefit of Arctic communities;
- Creating the Arctic Economic Council to promote business, trade and investment opportunities in the region;
- Developing a framework for action to help reduce climate pollutants, such as black carbon and methane; and,
- Developing an action plan to prevent marine-oil pollution in the Arctic.



PROMOTING...

Canada's Chairmanship has worked to support economic prosperity in the region, recognizing that business is essential to support residents and create sustainable communities. It has also supported Arctic indigenous peoples as they continue to adapt to changing social, economic, cultural and environmental conditions.

Accomplishments in this area include:

- The Arctic Council worked with indigenous communities and health professionals to identify successful approaches to improve mental wellness. Results of this project were shared at the Circumpolar Mental Wellness Symposium held in Iqaluit in March, 2015. By promoting mental wellness under Canada's Chairmanship, the Council has helped Arctic residents to adapt and thrive, and find solutions that reflect indigenous cultures and values.
- The Arctic Council has created a collection of written and visual examples showcasing how the traditional ways of life of Arctic indigenous peoples can co-exist with modern ways to support healthy communities. Promot-



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ing these traditional ways of life will help encourage better decision-making by those outside the region and support resilient, rich and vibrant cultures.

- The Arctic Council developed recommendations to more consistently use traditional and local knowledge in the work of the Council. Including such knowledge leads to better results in the Council's important development and environment-related initiatives.
- The Arctic Council created the Arctic Economic Council (AEC), an independent Arctic-to-Arctic business forum promoting business opportunities, trade and investment, to help develop an economically vibrant future for the region. The AEC was launched in September 2014 in Iqaluit and will bring a circumpolar business perspective to the work of the Arctic Council. www.arcticeconomiccouncil.com
- The Arctic Council developed guidelines for sustainable marine-based tourism and safer cruise-ship operations in the Arctic. The Arctic Marine Tourism Project (AMTP) - Best Practice Guidelines encourage the benefits that tourism brings to Arctic communities while mitigating the risks associated with increased activity.







PROTECTING...

During Canada's Chairmanship, progress has been made to protect the environment and help Arctic peoples and communities adapt to a changing climate.

Achievements include:

- The Arctic Council developed a results-oriented Framework for Action on black carbon and methane emissions in the Arctic. This achievement shows leadership nationally, regionally and globally by addressing short-lived climate pollutants that warm the Arctic and harm the air quality and the health of Arctic residents. The Framework for Action on Enhanced Black Carbon and Methane Emissions Reductions builds on the Council's ongoing scientific assessment work in this area.
- The Arctic Council launched an interactive website on climate change adaptation to make it easier for Arctic residents, researchers and decision-makers to share information, develop tools and exchange best practices on what Arctic communities are doing to adapt to a changing climate. www.arcticadaptationexchange.com
- The Arctic Council developed a Framework Plan for regulatory cooperation in the petroleum and shipping industries to prevent marine oil



THE ENVIRONMENT

pollution that could arise as a result of increased activity in Arctic waters. The Framework Plan for Cooperation on Prevention of Oil Pollution from Petroleum and Maritime Activities in the Marine Areas of the Arctic helps protect the environment and the local economy, and safeguards traditional livelihoods and ways of life.

- The Arctic Council developed an Action Plan with Arctic and non-Arctic countries to protect migratory birds along key flight paths. The Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative is a long-term Arctic biodiversity conservation project that recognizes the importance of migratory birds to the ecosystem, as well as to the traditional ways of life of many indigenous communities.
- Since its inception, the Arctic Council has sought to expand scientific understanding and cooperation to improve environmental protection, and promote sustainable development and good governance in the Arctic. Over the past two years, several key areas of cooperation were identified to enhance scientific cooperation among the Arctic states, including data sharing and facilitating the movement of people and equipment across borders. The important role of traditional knowledge in scientific research was also reaffirmed.







Canada



Clockwise from top: Arctic Council Ministers and Permanent Participants meet with the Arctic Economic Council; the Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, Minister for the Arctic Council, the Hon. Rob Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry meet with exhibitors at the traditional Inuit Village display, which was organized for the meeting; the Hon. Leona Aglukkaq presents Iqaluit 2015 commemorative plaques to the Hon. Peter Taptuna, Premier of Nunavut and Her Worship Mary Wilman, Mayor of Iqaluit. The Hon. Bob McLeod, Premier of the Northwest Territories is also shown (far left); The Hon. Leona Aglukkaq passes the gavel to incoming Chair of the Arctic Council, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.