



Foreign Affairs and  
International Trade Canada

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Commerce international Canada

**Canada**



# **Canadian Perspectives on a Changing Arctic**

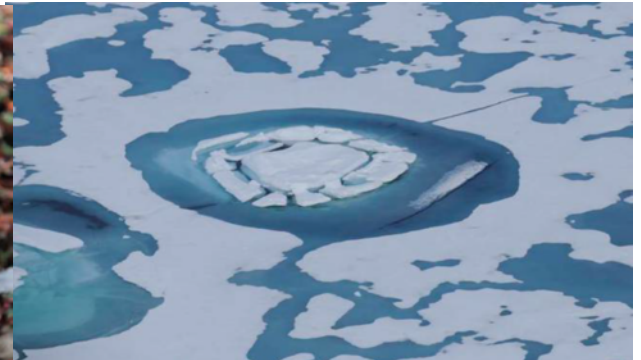
**January**

**2011**



# A Government Priority: Challenges & Opportunities

- Canada's North is a fundamental part of Canada - it is part of our heritage, our future and our identity as a country.
- Strengthening stewardship in the Arctic region:
  - Climate change is transforming the Northern environment
  - Balancing environmental protection with economic opportunities
  - Improving the lives of Northerners
  - The Arctic as region of cooperation





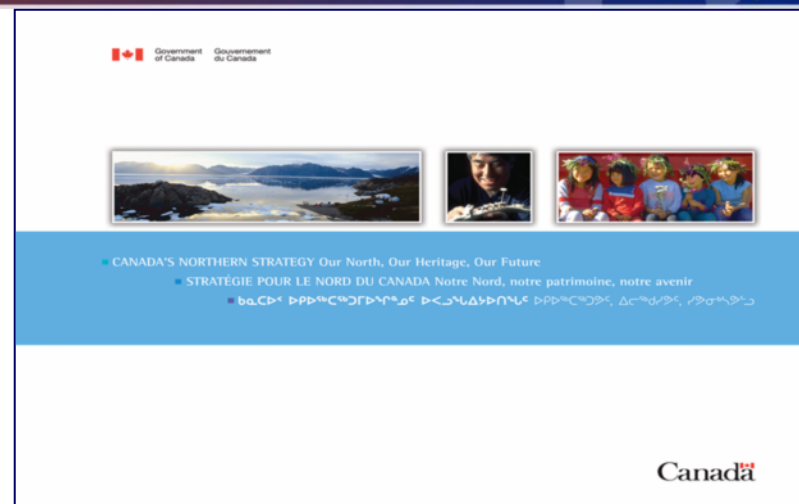
# Our Vision for the Canadian Arctic

- Canada's North is first and foremost about people – the Inuit, other Aboriginal peoples & Northerners for whom the North is quite simply - home.
- The Government of Canada has a clear vision for the North, in which:
  - we patrol and **protect our territory** through enhanced presence on the land, in the sea and over the skies of the Arctic;
  - self-reliant individuals live in **healthy, vital communities**, manage their own affairs and shape their own destinies;
  - the Northern tradition of **respect for the land & the environment** is paramount; the principles of sustainable development, informed by sound science & traditional knowledge, anchor decision making;
  - strong, responsible, accountable governments work together for a vibrant, **prosperous future for all**.



# Canada's Northern Strategy

*The Government of Canada's vision for its North is based on 4 pillars that guide its actions.*



**Sovereignty**

**Economic  
and Social  
Development**

**Environmental  
Protection**

**Governance**

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

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

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

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

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

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNDERPIN ALL FOUR PILLARS







# 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%

## ■ Non-Aboriginal Residents







# Arctic Climate Change

## Thinning sea ice & thawing permafrost

- Climate change affects traditional lifestyles, human behaviour, infrastructure, wildlife movement & migration patterns

## Record Minimum Ice Extent

### 3 Sept 2007

- record low of 4.4 million sq km

### Previous record 2005

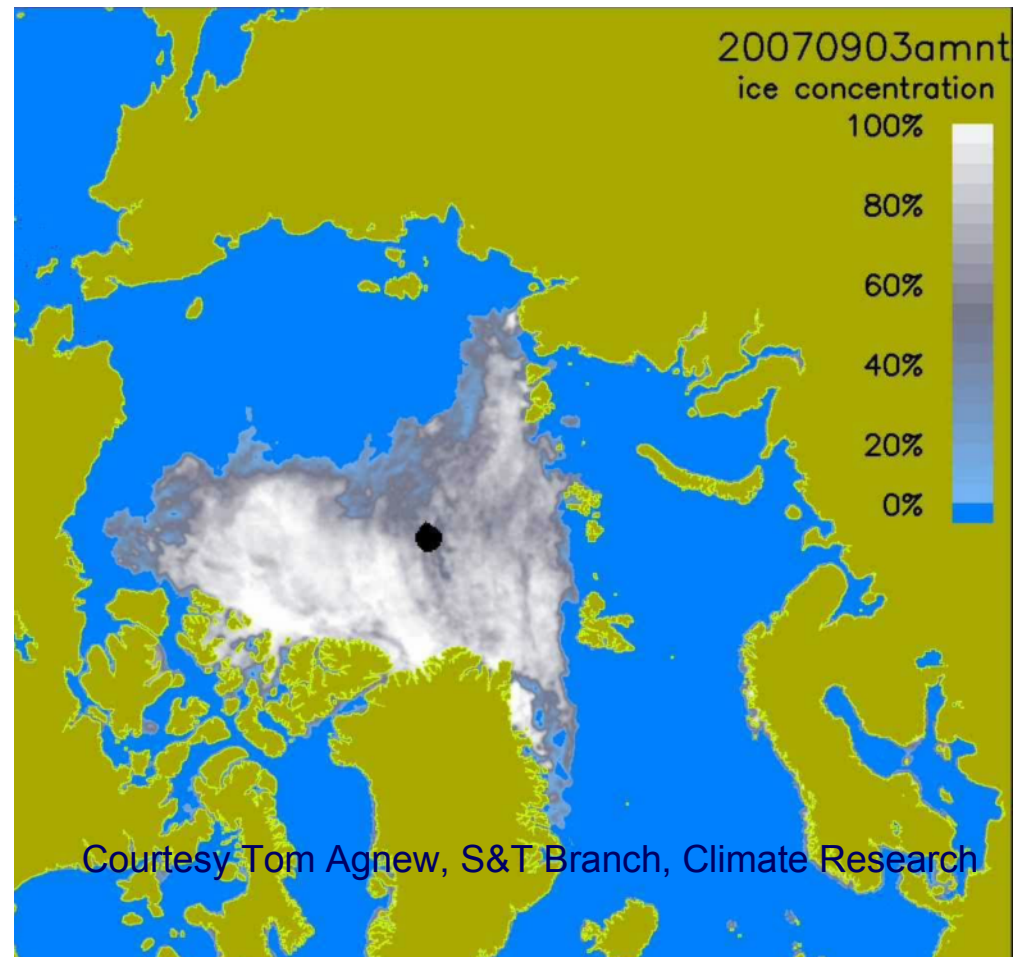
- 5.3 million sq km

### Normal minimum

- 7.7 million sq km

### September 2009

- approximately 5.1 million sq km





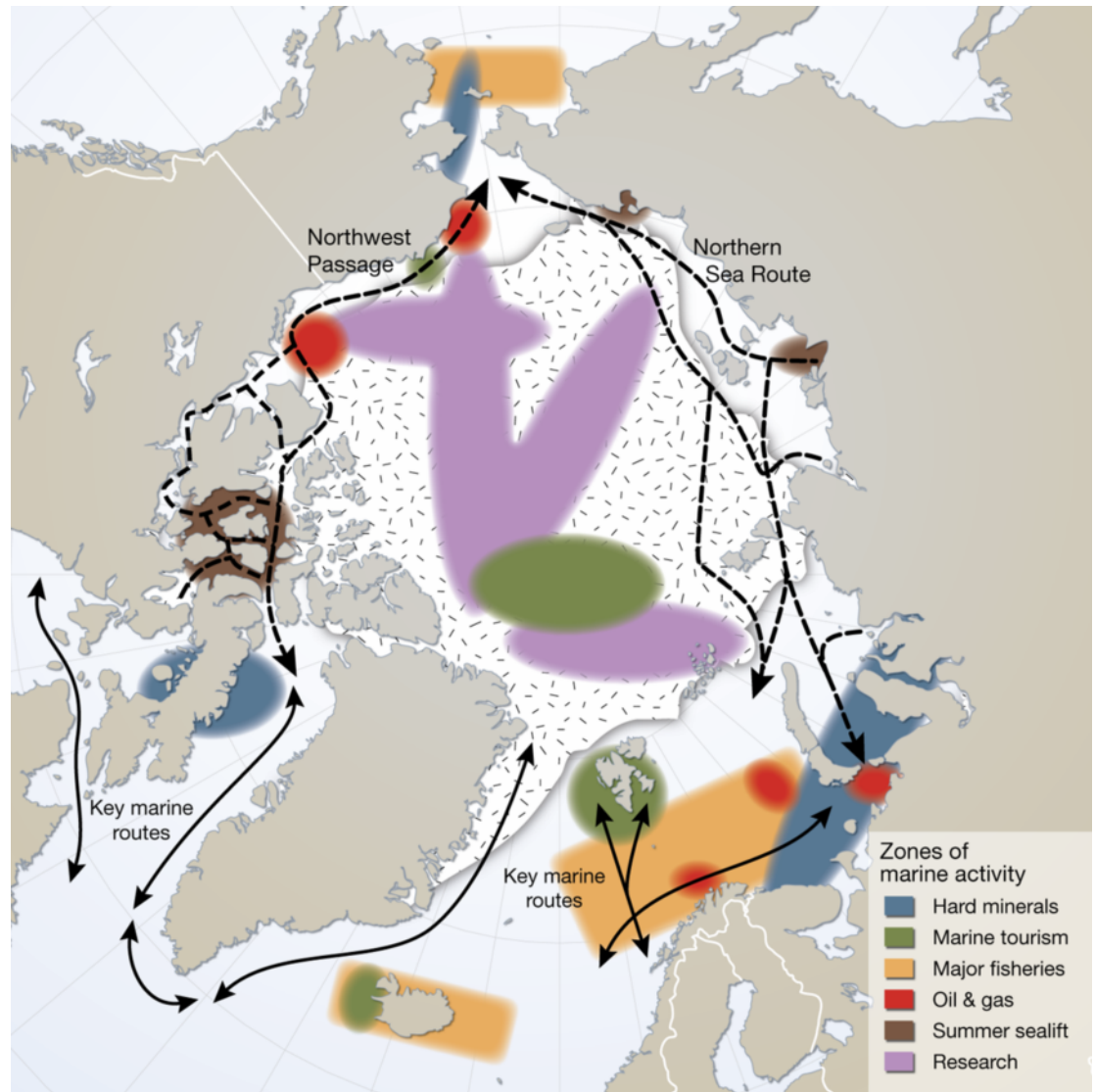
# Canadian Arctic Research

- Canada provided the largest single country investment (\$156 million) for International Polar Year (IPY) research
- IPY mobilized 1400 investigators and 190 foreign collaborators from 17 different countries in 67 communities in Northern Canada.
- 51 science and research projects targeted largely at two priorities:
  - Climate change impacts and adaptation
  - Health and well-being of northern communities
- Work is under way to establish a world-class High Arctic Research Station in Nunavut – Cambridge Bay
- \$85M to maintain or upgrade key Arctic research facilities



# 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.





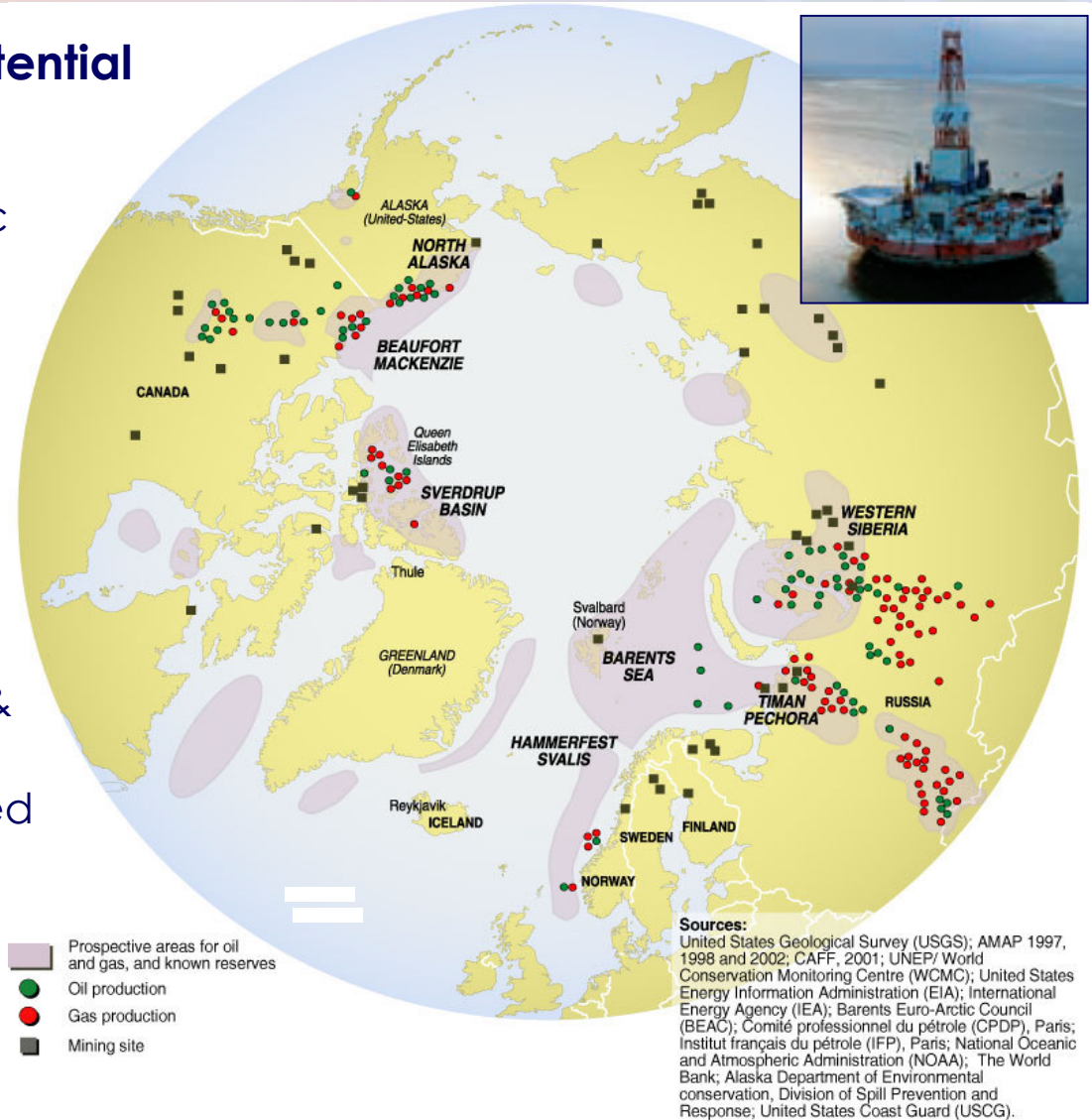
# Oil and Gas

## 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

# 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.







# Improving the lives of Northerners

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

- New economic development agency for the North (CanNor)
- Transferring decision-making powers to territorial governments to help realize aspirations of Northerners, increase local decision-making
- Addressing socio-economic challenges
- Ensuring that Canadian Northerners have the opportunity to regularly participate in shaping Canadian Arctic foreign policy



Prime Minister Harper in Pangnirtung, August 2009 13



# A region of cooperation

- A stable, rules based region with a history of cooperation, not conflict.
- Strengthening the Arctic Council
  - promoting greater policy dialogue and coordination;
  - encouraging greater outreach;
  - ensuring that research continues to focus on key emerging issues;
  - engaging with Arctic Council states to clarify criteria for permanent observer status for non-Arctic states.
- Ilulissat Ministerial - Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russia, US declare:
  - "...we recall that an extensive international legal framework applies to the Arctic Ocean"
  - "We remain committed to this legal framework and to the orderly settlement of any possible overlapping claims."



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





# Arctic Foreign Policy

## **Canada's 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



# Arctic Foreign Policy

- **Canada's international efforts will focus on:**
  - Resolution of boundary disputes;
  - Recognition of OCS ;
  - Pursuing arctic governance ie: public safety, Polar code etc;
  - Creating international conditions for sustainable development;
  - Eco-systems based management approach;
  - International efforts to address climate change;
  - Support international cooperation for arctic science
  - Support for indigenous permanent partner organisations
  - Engaging northerners, and particularly youth in Arctic FP



# The Way Forward

- **Arctic Council the leading multilateral forum to advance northern interests**
  - Other fora: IMO; UNCLOS; UN Convention on Climate Change
- **Collaborate closely with key partners: US, Russia, Norway, Denmark and Sweden**
  - Cdn Leadership: 2010 Arctic Oceans FM meeting
- **Establishment of Canadian International Centre for the Arctic Region**

# Questions?

