

Canada unveils Arctic strategy

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The federal government has promised to assert Canada's sovereignty over its resource-rich Arctic lands and waters while it addresses the need for jobs, housing and a clean environment in the North.

Three federal cabinet ministers released the new spending and a public relations plan, called Canada's Northern Strategy: Our North, Our Heritage, Our Future, at a news conference in Gatineau, Que., on Sunday.

"At every opportunity in my discussions with foreign ministers, I have and will continue to have frank discussions, and that includes reiterating, my friends, our country's willingness and continued engagement to reaffirm our sovereignty," Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon told reporters at the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Canada, Russia and Denmark have all tried to strengthen their presence in the Arctic in recent years, but Cannon said as members of the Arctic Council, they've been able to work together on common goals and there's no reason that can't continue.

"We're not going down a road toward confrontation. Indeed, we're going down a road toward co-operation and collaboration. That is the Canadian way. And that's the way my other colleagues around the table have chosen to go as well," he said.

Cannon, who was joined by Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl and Minister of State for Science Gary Goodyear for the policy announcement, said his government has made the Arctic an "absolute priority" and that the needs of northerners will be at the heart of Arctic policy.

Plans to increase economic opportunities

Strahl listed the ways in which the federal government intends to help the North's economy, reiterating plans previously announced.

"We're creating a new economic development agency for the North, shaped by northern realities and poised to respond to northern interests.

"We are supporting important new geomapping initiatives to build our understanding of the North's material and petroleum potential and we're working to improve regulatory processes across the North.

"This will build investor confidence in the North and increase economic opportunities for northerners and all Canadians," he said.

"Our ultimate goal is to ensure that economic spinoffs benefit northerners first," Cannon said.

The foreign affairs minister also said he's hoping the European Union will reconsider a proposed ban on seal-derived products. The European Council of Ministers meets Monday in Belgium to vote on a proposal to regulate trade in seal products.

Members of the EU Parliament endorsed a bill in May that would impose a tight ban on the import of seal products to all 27 member countries as of 2010. Only seal products from Inuit or aboriginal hunts would be exempt under the ban.

With files from The Canadian Press

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Leprechaun1

simple truths\\ You are an American NSA Agent\\

2009/07/29
at 8:10 AM ET

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K-Master

Let's have a National referendum on officially joining the United States of America. If yes, let the Americans pay those whose families have been here let's say since WWII a large sum of money.

2009/07/28
at 11:56 AM ET

If no, then let's get our country back for God sake!

Agree: Overhaul Canada and become true Canadians

Or

Disagree: To officially join the USA

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justlikewillyapelican

what about the North, oh, yeah, that big chunk of real estate that WILL make us millions. Until something is needed from the North we are pushed to the back of the

2009/07/28
at 10:53 AM ET

shelf (note: we are a shelved issue, until needed). As 1/3 of Canada, would it not make sense to protect all of Canada; not just the areas that have been raped and pillaged for the resources. Talk lightly about the North, and they just may not pay any attention to the hot air from Ottawa!!!

A Northern Policy that has some content that matters to the North would be good, not mumble, mumble, North, mumble, nunble!!!!

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Northern Observer

2009/07/28
at 8:51 AM ET

Isn't it time the Harper Government put some money into housing northerners instead of this pie in the sky nonsense? We could house everyone in the three territories properly for the amount being wasted on this surrilous attempt to buy northern votes with these non-existant "defence" projects which only benefit southern interests.

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Marco Ramius

2009/07/28
at 8:28 AM ET

Whether Canada will have to defend the north against agressors depends so much on who's in power in the US. If Obama fails and the pendulum swings back to the Republicans, and they get another George Bush elected (Jeb Bush?), Canada is screwed. Some poor Inuit on a snow machine will accidently run over some tourist in snow shoes and a Hawaiian shirt from Florida and that's it, the next thing you know, cruise missiles are crashing down in Tuk.

C'mon, let's get serious, it isn't going to be a shooting war, but an economic war. If the economic assets of the North are sold off to foreigners, they won't have to fire a shot. Majority Canadian ownership has to be mandatory for any enitivity to exploit the North's resources.

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The flooding in Manitoba, which has displaced hundreds, has already cost more than \$200 million to fight, and that doesn't include massive post-flood damages that can only be tallied later. [more »](#)

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Surveying Slave Lake aftermath as fires rage on in Alberta

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Ian Hanomansing reports on the losses in the fire-devastated town of Slave Lake, Joanna Roumeliotis checks in with evacuees, and Briar Stewart updates the state of firefighting in the face of over 100 blazes which continue to rage on in the area.

Flooding focus moves to Lake Manitoba

[Cameron MacIntosh](#)

As the Assiniboine River crests without further problems from Brandon to Portage, the flood focus has shifted to the southern basin of Lake Manitoba, where high water levels and exposure to north winds have already caused land to be swallowed up by the rising lake.

Tight security in Dublin for Queen's historic visit to Ireland

[Susan Ormiston](#)

Despite the threat of violence, the four-day royal visit by Queen Elizabeth II to Ireland — the first since George V in 1911, when Ireland was still part of the British empire — is seen as a strong indication of improving relations between Britain and Ireland. More than 8,000 Irish police are in the streets of Dublin amid the tightest security ever seen in the Irish capital. About 1,000 Irish soldiers are also on stand-by.

Go Public: Dodge Ram steering under investigation

[Kathy Tomlinson](#)

Serious safety concerns are being raised by owners of late model Dodge Ram trucks — in complaints to government — over a problem automotive experts and consumers have dubbed the "death wobble." Several owners from Canada and the U.S. have reported they are scared to drive their vehicles after experiencing violent, uncontrollable shaking in their truck's steering system, triggered when their vehicles hit a bump in the road. However, Chrysler has concluded there is "no safety issue" related to this issue. It advises service technicians to check the vehicle's suspension and steering components and adjust the tire pressure.

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