

Tuktoyaktuk Declaration

Coastal Zone Canada 2006 Conference Statement

18 August 2006

Preamble

At the seventh biennial Coastal Zone Canada Conference (CZC '06) held in Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories, on the theme "Arctic Change and Coastal Communities," 270 participants identified priorities that require immediate action if we are to take advantage of opportunities and address challenges of Canada's northern ocean. These views reflect perspectives of aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians from across the country, with a significant majority being from the Canadian Arctic, including Inuit and Inuvialuit leaders and elders deliberating through the Conference's Northern Forum, and young people from across Canada through the Youth Forum. The action priorities relate to the Arctic Ocean and northern agenda of the Government of Canada, the next phase of Canada's Oceans Action Plan, and commitments for research, dialogue, and engagement.

The Northern Voice

One-third of conference delegates were northern leaders, many of whom spoke about changes to traditional family units, social cohesion and social equity, mechanisms for conflict resolution, and the importance of gender equality as having an impact on community well-being. Engaging in traditional activities, recognizing the value of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* (also known as Traditional Knowledge), strengthening language and culture, and making a commitment to the education of youth were seen as important keys to adapting to change.

Recommendations

Canada is blessed and challenged by our maritime opportunities and responsibilities. We need strengthened stewardship, healthy communities, and adaptation in the face of the many changes expected in all our ocean and coastal areas. But nowhere is the situation more critical and in immediate need of care than in our Arctic region. Driven by this need, encouraged by the presence of the prime minister in the North and the federal government's commitment to invest in the North, and mindful of important advances through Canada's *Oceans Act* and implementation of Phase I of the Oceans Action Plan, the participants of CZC '06 call on the federal government of Canada, and all provincial and territorial governments of Canada, to commit to a second phase of the Oceans Action Plan and incorporate the following:

1. *Sovereignty, human and ecological dimensions of security, and monitoring in the North* – Further boost Canada's sovereignty commitment in the North and the Arctic Ocean and its capacity to bring maximum benefits for the sustainable well-being and future of Canada's northern people, communities, and ecosystems. These goals can be achieved through increased security (such as the revitalization of the Arctic Rangers), surveillance, and search-and-rescue capacity; increased scientific observation, monitoring, and assessment of environments and resources; technology innovation for sustainable northern living; linking scientific and traditional knowledge into forms that support effective decision making; and investing in coastal communities through education, health, potable water, communications, transportation by land and sea, and fundamental infrastructure.
2. *Sea-to-sea-to-sea* – Continue our commitment to implementation of the *Canada Oceans Act* for all three oceans, with action in more key areas across the Arctic. This action should include an expanded Phase II of the Oceans Action Plan to support development on a broader scale of integrated management for Canada's ocean and coastal regions.
3. *Climate-change adaptation for community well-being and the management of marine and coastal uses* – Commit to mitigation and adaptation concerning the immediate and longer-term impacts of climate change on Canada's coastal zones and their inhabitants, especially in the Arctic, through state-of-the-art information on the nature and impacts of change, a recognition and respect for northern traditional knowledge in decision making, and the education of northern youth.

4. *Oceans and Coastal Council of Canada* – Create, as part of Phase II of the Oceans Action Plan, a citizen-based Oceans and Coastal Council of Canada (OCCC) to provide expert advice to the Government of Canada, to promote and increase awareness about Canada’s oceans and coasts through public communications and education, to contribute to the annual State of the Oceans Report required by the *Oceans Act* by providing an annual Report on the State of Ocean and Coastal Management in Canada, and to generally keep the Government of Canada and the people of Canada informed concerning progress on managing our precious ocean and coastal resources.
5. *International Polar Year (IPY)* – Strengthen Canada’s leadership role in the international community regarding the IPY and support the necessary follow-up action on ocean and coastal governance and management of local, national, and international Canadian initiatives related to the Arctic. The IPY presents a great opportunity to involve people of the Arctic and use their knowledge in science policy and management applications for the region.

COMMITMENTS OF THE COASTAL ZONE CANADA ASSOCIATION

The CZCA commits to undertake the following actions:

1. *Create a new regional CZC Arctic organization* – Support and seek funding for the establishment of a regional CZC organization for the Arctic as a forum through which to maintain the presence and importance of Arctic coastal and ocean issues within the CZCA and spread the ideas, enthusiasm, and energy derived from CZC ‘06.
2. *Support Canada’s IPY Activities* – Collaborate, through the CZCA membership, with the Ocean Management Research Network (OMRN) and other networks in carrying out research, outreach, and community involvement to support Canada’s IPY activities.
3. *Commit to action and follow-up* – The new regional CZC Arctic organization will report to the next CZC conference in Vancouver in 2008 on progress and continued challenges in the development of Canada’s oceans agenda, and in particular the progress made in Canada’s Arctic, and will provide Arctic community input at the OMRN national conference in the fall of 2007.

This Conference Statement represents the combined knowledge, experience, and wisdom of a broad collection of interested and concerned Canadians, international experts, and members of the Northern Forum. These, the participants of CZC ‘06, request that the Government of Canada give serious consideration to all of the above issues, recommendations, and actions in order to advance Canada’s leadership role in integrated coastal and oceans management and to give the Arctic its appropriate place within Canada’s oceans agenda.

Respectfully submitted by:

*The Coastal Zone Canada Association
On behalf of the participants of the Coastal Zone Canada Conference 2006
Tuktoyaktuk, NT, 18 August 2006*