

Arctic Gateway

The Liberal approach to Canada's North and the international Arctic region is outlined in our policy book and will move beyond military photo-ops and grandstanding. A Liberal government will **focus on the peoples of Canada's north**, as well as their knowledge, ideas, and energy. The best path to strengthening Arctic sovereignty involves partnering with those Canadians who know the region best, and are the most able to shape its future.

The Canadian government must **strengthen relations with other Arctic Nations**, fostering shared interests, building and strengthening multilateral institutions. The Arctic is an excellent example of the Canadian interest being most effectively pursued from the centre of a network, rather than through an attempt to dictate terms from the top of an old-fashioned hierarchy.

A Liberal Government will reverse the mistakes of the Harper Conservatives, by appointing a new **Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs**, and energizing Canada's participation in the Arctic Council. We will work to bring together all members of the Arctic Council, including indigenous leadership, to formalize cooperation on environmental stewardship, economic and social development, transportation, search and rescue, and security. We will also pursue a joint Arctic mapping exercise to help establish international protected lands, oceans, fisheries and wildlife, sacred indigenous sites, and further cooperation on security. A Liberal government will also act to establish a **permanent secretariat for the Arctic Council** in Canada to support negotiations, and build capacity for full participation.

The Liberal approach on Canada's North will be about action on Northern issues like education, jobs, natural resource development, healthcare, infrastructure, environment and climate change, and preserving traditional ways of life in a turbulent modern world. These are the challenges and opportunities that will measure Canada's success in **making Arctic sovereignty serve Arctic people**. A strong Canadian military must play an important role in the North, but as one element of a broader approach to leadership and partnership with Northerners, and our northern neighbours.

As your representative in the House of Commons I would certainly be a strong advocate for the further development of an Arctic Gateway Strategy in which the province of Newfoundland and Labrador would play a key role.