

**TUK DECLARATION
COASTAL ZONE CANADA 2006 CONFERENCE STATEMENT
18 AUGUST, 2006**

Preamble

At the seventh biennial Coastal Zone Canada Conference (CZC'06) held in Tuktoyaktuk, NT on the theme "Arctic Change and Coastal Communities", more than two hundred and seventy participants identified priorities requiring immediate action for realizing opportunities and addressing challenges in 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. The importance of engaging in traditional activities, the strength of Inuit Qaujimatugangit (also known as Traditional Knowledge) the strengthening of language and culture, and 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. This can be implemented 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* – continued commitment to the implementation of the *Canada Oceans Act* for all three oceans, with action in more key areas across the Arctic. This 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* – commitment 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 the 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 regarding their knowledge for science policy and management applications for the region.

Commitments of the Coastal Zone Canada Association

The CZCA commits to undertake the following actions:

1. *Creation of a new regional Arctic CZC organization* – support and seek funding for the establishment of a regional CZC organization for the Arctic as a forum for maintaining the presence and importance of Arctic coastal and ocean issues within the CZCA and to 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. *Commitment 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 to 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, and as such 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 (ICOM) 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