

The Development of Northern Energy Resources and Canadian Arctic Sovereignty and Security

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The Canadian Arctic is transforming. The twin processes of climate change and resource development will fundamentally change the north. There are many opportunities that come with these developments, but there will also be great challenges. The Government of Canada will be required to ensure as new projects proceed the national interest and security of all Canadians are met. In effect, the scope of development that is expected to occur will finally force Canadian Governments to ensure that they have the abilities to ensure that the new activities proceed in accordance with Canadian rules laws and regulations. To do so, it is going to need to seriously consider how it is to do this. It has only been very recently that Canadian Governments have shown any inclination to spend the resources necessary to allow it to know what is happening in the north and to act when necessary. With the coming resources development, it is now necessary to increase these efforts. But in order to do so in the most economic and efficient manner it is necessary to determine what the new resource projects will mean for Canada. What security and sovereignty threats will develop in the Arctic as economic activity intensifies?

This presentation will begin by considering what is meant by the term Arctic Sovereignty and Security. While this term is widely used, it contains many meanings. The second task of the presentation will be to examine the current threats to Canadian Arctic Sovereignty and Security. The last section of this talk will then look to the future. What impacts will the new economics of the north have on the Canadian north?