

The United States and Canada: Strong Arctic Partners

The United States and Canada, both Arctic states, share a vital partnership essential for a secure and prosperous North American homeland. As geopolitical competition, economic interests, technological advancements, and melting sea ice increase the Arctic's strategic importance, our collaboration is even more crucial to maintaining peace and stability in the region.

A History of Cooperation in the Arctic

The United States is Canada's premier Arctic partner, with shared priorities in security, search and rescue, critical minerals, energy development, scientific research, conservation, and environmental protection. Our collaboration through bilateral arrangements and international forums underscores our commitment to continental defense, sustainable development, and Arctic resilience. Our mutual support for the Arctic Council ensures Arctic governance remains with Arctic states. By working together, the United States and Canada can enhance leadership and promote peaceful engagement in the Arctic.

A Secure Arctic is a Secure North America

The Arctic is now a critical region for national security, especially with increased military activities by Russia and China. As the United States' partner in the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) — the world's only binational military command — Canada's Armed Forces play a key role in monitoring and responding to threats in the Arctic and the North American continent. Our defense partnerships through both NORAD and NATO enhance information-sharing and deepen operational and strategic engagement, ensuring continental security.

Arctic Security with the Icebreaker Collaboration Effort

A prime example of our strong partnership in the Arctic is the Icebreaker Collaboration Effort



(ICE Pact) signed in November 2024 by Canada, Finland, and the United States. This landmark and innovative agreement to jointly develop Arctic and polar icebreakers will boost the U.S. and Canadian shipbuilding industry, leverage highly specialized technical expertise, and strengthen Arctic protection by enabling greater U.S. and Allied naval and Coast Guard presence in the region.



RANGERS HELP SECURE THE FUTURE

Canada engages in the Arctic from a position of strength thanks to the Canadian Armed Forces' presence and capabilities, including the Canadian Rangers. The Rangers are active, well-respected community members who play a critical role in demonstrating Canadian sovereignty over the North and the Arctic. They are also vital in Arctic search and rescue operations, supporting security and communities in the region.

Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy

Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy, announced in December 2024, broadens Arctic security to include community, research, economic, information, and infrastructure security. The policy aims to strengthen national resilience and defend critical infrastructure against foreign threats. Canada will continue to hold Russia accountable, confront aggression, and, alongside the United States, defend NATO's western flank. The Canadian Coast Guard's annual Operation Pacer Goose will continue to ensure safe delivery of supplies to the U.S. Pituffik Space Base in Greenland. Increased defense spending and the addition of an Arctic ambassador and Canadian consulates in Anchorage and Nuuk will enhance diplomatic engagement among Arctic allies. Together with Canada's updated defense policy, these emphasize Canada's leadership in the Arctic.

Strategic Arctic Resource Management for Economic Growth

Melting sea ice in the Arctic is opening new shipping routes and access to untapped resources like oil, gas, and minerals which offers economic potential but also requires careful management to protect our national interests from adversaries. Canada's sustainable resource management policies ensure balanced development and environmental protection. Canada also promotes Indigenous stewardship, supporting Indigenous Guardians in monitoring wildlife, conducting search and rescue missions, and maintaining cultural sites.

A coordinated approach between the United States and Canada promotes responsible Arctic resource management. By collaborating, we can leverage our expertise to harness resources responsibly, secure energy supplies, and foster innovation. This partnership will enhance economic growth, job creation, and strategic interests, benefiting both countries and contributing to global stability.



UPDATED CANADIAN DEFENSE POLICY TO ENHANCE ARCTIC SECURITY WITH HISTORIC INVESTMENTS

- *Year-round presence with Northern Operational Support Hubs and a satellite ground station*
- *Modern tactical helicopter capability*
- *Airborne early warning aircraft for early threat detection*
- *Improved naval fleet sustainment*
- *Specialized maritime sensors and expanded submarine fleet for underwater defense on all three coasts*

Canada is committed to a secure and stable Arctic, to defending against threats to the continent, and to advancing shared priorities.

Together, we can build a secure, prosperous, and resilient Arctic future for both countries.