

September 25, 2008

## **Yukon Federal Green Party Arctic Sovereignty Platform**

As climate change accelerates, scientists have been upgrading their predictions of warming. It is now inevitable that the Arctic Ocean will become summer ice free in the next decade. As the Arctic opens, the Canadian Government has begun to discuss sovereignty.

At stake are:

- subsea resources – the US Geological Survey estimates that 22 to 23% of the world's oil and gas reserves are under the Arctic Ocean
- marine shipping – the shortest shipping route from New York to Beijing or from London to Tokyo is via the Arctic
- the environment itself – which supports a unique array of animals; subsistence harvest and cultural values of indigenous Arctic peoples; and which regulates much of the planet's climate

Given the extremely high stakes, it is no wonder that the North has become geo-political.

As the Green Party candidate for the Yukon, I agree that the Government of Canada should be committed to helping the North realize its true potential as a healthy and prosperous region within a strong and sovereign country. I believe we should envision a new North where:

- self-reliant individuals live in healthy, vital communities, manage their own affairs and shape their own destinies
- where the northern tradition of respect for the land and the environment is paramount
- where principles of responsible and sustainable development anchor all decision making and action.
- where strong, responsible, accountable governments work together for a vibrant, prosperous future for all
- and where people and governments are significant contributing partners to a dynamic, secure Canadian federation.

As the Green Party MP for the Yukon I will

- acknowledge that Northerners are here in the North – that our sovereignty is already legitimately established through our activity and our presence
- continue with our submission to the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea by 2013, but engage Northerners in a meaningful discussion regarding our intention of how the Arctic resources will be or will not be developed
- advocate to move the current international negotiations on Arctic Ocean rights to the Arctic Council to allow for participation by our territorial and indigenous leaders
- seek an international agreement on Arctic shipping regulations

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