

Ministre des
Affaires du Nord



Minister of
Northern Affairs

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

March 30, 2021

Gérald Lafrenière
Interim Clerk of the Senate and Clerk of the Parliaments
and Chief Legislative Services Officer
2 Rideau Street, Room A408
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A4

Dear Mr. Lafrenière,

I am pleased to enclose, in both official languages, the Government Response to the 4th Report of the Special Senate Committee on the Arctic entitled, *Northern Lights: A Wake-Up Call for the Future of Canada*, for tabling in the Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Vandal".

Hon. Daniel Vandal, P.C., M.P.

Encl.

Government Response to the 4th Report of the Special Senate Committee on the Arctic

“Northern Lights: A Wake-Up Call for the Future of Canada”

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to respond, on behalf of the Government of Canada, to the Fourth Report of the Special Senate Committee on the Arctic, entitled *Northern Lights: A Wake Up Call for the Future of Canada*.

The Government of Canada thanks the Committee for their valuable study of the Arctic and its peoples and agrees with the spirit and intent of the recommendations. The Government would also like to thank the witnesses from across the country who participated in this important study. The Committee’s recommendations align with many of the actions the Government has proactively been taking to address the challenges and threats associated with healthy northern economies, cultures and communities; environmental conservation; the use of Indigenous and scientific knowledge; the Arctic in a global context; and the lack of adequate infrastructure in Canada’s northern and Arctic regions.

Since the conclusions of the Committee’s study in spring 2019, the Government of Canada has undertaken significant action in the North, launching the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework (“the Framework”) and making progress in its co-development and implementation. The intention of the Framework is to define and address shared priorities with a greater emphasis on deepened relationships, reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and enhanced collaboration and partnerships. It is a long-term vision that reflects the needs and priorities of the Arctic and Northern region and its peoples.

Canada recognizes that federal Arctic policies of the past have not succeeded in building a strong, sustainable region that provides the same opportunities expected by most Canadians. Insufficient physical and social infrastructure has hindered opportunities for growth and prosperity in the region. Directing Arctic policy from the south has not closed the gaps in well-being between Arctic and northern people and the rest of the country. In trying to close those gaps, we have taken an approach that has not been tried by the Government of Canada before. Inspired by the consensus traditions of Arctic and northern Indigenous Peoples, the federal government sought to engage representatives of territories, provinces, and Indigenous Peoples as partners in co-developing this policy framework. All have made considerable contributions.

HEALTHY ECONOMIES TO BENEFIT THE ARCTIC

1. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ADOPT A CONSISTENT DEFINITION OF THE ARCTIC WITH RESPECT TO LEGISLATION, POLICY DIRECTIVES AND PROGRAMS

Canada's vision for the Framework takes into account both the "Arctic" and "Northern" character of the region and those who live there; it is a policy framework for Canada's Arctic and North that includes the entirety of Inuit Nunangat, the Inuit homeland in Canada.

The Framework takes an inclusive and flexible approach to the geographic scope of Canada's Arctic and Northern regions. Federal Departments/Agencies will continue to have the flexibility to develop eligibility criteria at the program-level, based on existing program authorities and program objectives. This will allow a targeted approach for Arctic policies and programs. Given the sheer size of the region, the interests and needs of our partners differ from community to community. The realities in the north that Whitehorse faces are not the realities of Kuujuaq in Quebec, nor Iqaluit in Nunavut.

For example, Budget 2019 allocated an additional \$400 million to support infrastructure development by funding projects that improve the flow of goods and people in Canada, through Transport Canada's (TC) National Trade Corridors Fund (NTCF). The geographic scope of the northern call for proposals on October 23, 2020 aligned with the Framework; it included the three territories; the Nunatsiavut region in northern Labrador; the Nunavik region in Quebec; and the Town and Port of Churchill, including related infrastructure assets, in northern Manitoba. Through the northern call for proposals, the NTCF encourages eligible applicants to propose projects that address transportation needs of Arctic and Northern communities, including safety, climate change adaptation, and fostering socio-economic development opportunities.

The Government of Canada recognizes that barriers still exist with the lack of funding to northern and remote regions. Moving forward, the co-development and co-implementation process of the Framework will improve the ability to adequately address the needs of all Arctic and Northern communities.

2. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA DEVELOP A STRATEGY THAT: 1) EMPOWERS ARCTIC AND NORTHERN GOVERNMENTS TO ASSUME ROLES IN DELIVERING FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO ITS RESIDENTS; AND 2) DEVOLVES FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES RELATED TO THE ARCTIC AND NORTHERN REGIONS TO LOCAL, TERRITORIAL AND INDIGENOUS GOVERNMENTS

The Framework is now in the implementation phase with Indigenous, provincial, and territorial partners. Framework partners are, initially, working towards establishing governance regimes to implement the Framework. This process empowers our partners to take a prominent role in determining their specific regional priorities. Though still in its

early stages, the development of governance models will allow our partners more input on when and how programs are delivered within their communities.

This recommendation also relates to the 8th goal of the Framework, to ensure that “reconciliation supports self-determination and nurtures mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.” An objective under this goal is to “Complete outstanding devolution commitments, including the devolution of Land, inland waters and resource management in Nunavut.”

The collaborative approach to policy development mentioned above demonstrates the Government’s commitments to empowering Northerners to be partners in the design and delivery of programs and services, and to devolving federal responsibilities into the hands of Arctic and Northern residents.

In addition to the Framework, some departments are already designing and implementing programs and initiatives with input from our partners. To ensure Canadians make informed decisions based on changing weather, water, and climate conditions, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) provides information and services for public safety and weather-sensitive operations in the north. Ongoing collaboration and engagement with territorial partners and Northern communities is part of routine operations.

The Government of Canada has also been identifying its land interests in Nunavut in advance of Nunavut devolution. The devolution of province-like responsibilities to the territories is a long-standing federal policy objective. It seeks to ensure greater local control and accountability for decisions, and helps facilitate Crown reconciliation with northern Indigenous Peoples. Nunavut is the last jurisdiction in the country without responsibilities for public lands and resources. The parties negotiating this transfer - the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Government of Canada – reached, in August 2019, an agreement-in-principle for devolution, and negotiations on a Final Agreement have begun.

The Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) was created in February 2017. The Committee is co-chaired by the Prime Minister and President of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and elected Inuit leadership from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Makivik Corporation and Nunatsiavut Government. To-date, ten shared priorities for joint action that create socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions for success through the full implementation of land claims agreements have been identified to advance reconciliation.

3. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA: 1) PROVIDE GREATER FINANCIAL SUPPORT TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING LAND USE PLANNING PROCESSES AND GOVERNANCE OF REGULATORY BOARDS; AND 2) CONSULT AND COOPERATE WITH INDIGENOUS AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP CO-MANAGEMENT REGIMES WITH RESPECT TO THE ARCTIC OFFSHORE WATERS

The Framework is well-aligned to addressing this recommendation with our partners as it includes the relevant goals of ensuring that “Canadian Arctic and northern ecosystems are healthy and resilient” and that “Reconciliation supports self-determination and nurtures mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.”

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) is working closely with Indigenous and territorial governments to identify financial requirements associated with land use planning initiatives in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The *Nunavut Agreement* establishes Nunavut’s Institutions of Public Governance (IPGs) as the cornerstone of the cooperative management of land and resources. These institutions are critical to economic development and environmental protection in the territory as they are integral to municipal development, traditional harvesting of wildlife, the protection of endangered species, and the responsible resource development of Nunavut’s natural resources.

The IPGs are independent, arms-length institutions, with Canada as their sole funding provider. Each IPG plays a key role in Nunavut’s regulatory and co-management systems. For example, in 2020-21, the Nunavut Planning Commission was provided with \$2 million in supplementary funding to complete a new draft of the *Nunavut Land Use Plan*.

The Government of Canada is committed to effective implementation of modern treaties (comprehensive land claims agreements). CIRNAC is currently in discussions with all modern treaty partners to modernize their fiscal arrangements, including ensuring they have access to sufficient fiscal resources to meet their expenditure needs as set out in their modern treaties. As well, funding for many boards established pursuant to those agreements has recently been updated to reflect modern challenges, and discussions with other partners are underway.

In response to the portion of the recommendation pertaining to the development of co-management regimes for the Arctic offshore, TC is supporting the development of the Nunavut Marine Council under the \$1.5 billion Oceans Protection Plan, launched in November 2016 as the largest investment ever made to protect Canada’s coasts and waterways. Collaboration is the cornerstone of programs and initiatives launched under the Plan; the Government of Canada values the traditional knowledge and expertise of Canada’s Indigenous Peoples and coastal communities, and has met with Indigenous groups to begin discussions on establishing implementation strategies to support the

Plan.

In collaboration with TC, the Canadian Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is leading on key Oceans Protection Plan activities, including Northern Low-Impact Shipping Corridors. As part of this initiative, Coast Guard and TC are working with Inuit, First Nation, and Metis partners to identify priority areas of investment and a collaborative governance framework for the design and management of marine corridors.

To implement the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and Coast Guard Arctic Regions, DFO and Coast Guard are engaging with Inuit, First Nations and Métis partners on the development of a collaborative governance framework to enhance the delivery of programs and services that meet the needs of Northern communities.

Adequately funding comprehensive land claims agreements empowers northern beneficiaries to have the resources, tools and information required to effectively manage and implement the intentions outlined within the agreements. Additional funding can provide timely and necessary land use information to ensure that the management of land and resources occurs as the local beneficiaries intended (through, for example, the provision of enhanced capacity building and support for local communities in land use planning).

4. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA APPOINT A MINISTER OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS IN CONTROL OF ITS OWN PARLIAMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND THAT THIS CABINET POSITION REPORT ANNUALLY TO PARLIAMENT ON ITS ACTIVITIES

After the 2019 election, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau appointed Dan Vandal as the first Minister of Northern Affairs. Minister Vandal was mandated to improve the quality of life and economic opportunities of Northerners while simultaneously acting in support of Canada's sovereignty and national interests. The appointment of a Minister of Northern Affairs coincided with the release of the Framework; it well positions the government to strengthen its relationships with Indigenous and Territorial governments and, through the co-development model, advance policies and programs that are for and by Northerners.

In 2020, the Minister of Northern Affairs was dedicated to ensuring Northerners remained healthy, safe, and supported through the COVID-19 pandemic. By doing so, the federal government was able to respond quickly and effectively to territorial and Indigenous partners, including through the provision of health and social services supports; business assistance; investments to maintain critical air transportation services, supply chains, and to address food insecurity; and support for territorial governments' isolation hubs. Throughout this extraordinary year, Northern Affairs Canada was a dedicated resource to Northern partners in fighting the pandemic.

Throughout the pandemic, Northern Affairs continued to make important progress with partners. In November 2020, the first Arctic and Northern Policy Framework Leadership

Committee meeting took place to discuss governance mechanisms and priorities. Additional investments were made in green energy and off-diesel initiatives through Northern Affairs Canada climate change programs, and the Government continued to prioritize science and research through its supports for Polar Knowledge Canada, which operates the Canadian High Arctic Research Station. These supports will ensure that northern research reflects the priorities of Indigenous partners and that Indigenous Knowledge is a critical component to the work being done.

Overall, the appointment of the first Minister of Northern Affairs has made a significant contribution to achieving progress on government priorities during a very difficult year for Canadians.

5. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS, ESTABLISH AN ARCTIC INFRASTRUCTURE BANK TO FUND NEW INFRASTRUCTURE AND MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE, AND TO ENSURE THE FUNDS ARE DIRECTED BASED ON ARCTIC NEEDS

Through the Framework, the Government is committed to strong, sustainable, diversified and inclusive local and regional economies. However, the Government does not at present support the establishment of an Arctic Infrastructure Bank. The government is aware that infrastructure funding initiatives are complex and piecemeal, that they do not always allow for large, long term investments to advance northern priorities, and that there are inequalities with the overall infrastructure in Canada's northern region in comparison to the rest of the country that need to be addressed. Closing these gaps is a top priority for the Government of Canada, with the aim of achieving more efficient and effective transportation, communications, and clean energy usage in the Canadian Arctic and North.

This recommendation aligns well with the priorities of the Framework, the second goal of which looks to achieve "Strengthened infrastructure that closes gaps with other regions in Canada". An objective of this goal is to "Integrate climate change resilience into new and existing infrastructure."

The 2020 Speech from the Throne further committed the Government to providing infrastructure investments towards clean energy and energy-efficient retrofits. To that end, funding to support the Framework, and by extension northern infrastructure, will be coordinated through internal and external governance mechanisms.

Some programs which address this recommendation already are in place. For example, the Government of Canada has recognized the challenges posed by climate change in the North, and its significant impacts on northern infrastructure. Through Canada's previous climate action plan, the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*, the Government worked with provinces, territories, and Indigenous Peoples to enhance resilience and strengthen capacity and leadership to support more sustainable and climate resilient northern infrastructure.

The Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB), with a \$35 billion investment capacity, is another example. The CIB has a mandate to work with governments and Indigenous communities to identify infrastructure needs and address gaps through the use of innovative financing tools and partnerships that attract private investment to infrastructure projects that are in the public interest. It is already focused on a number of projects to support the north, including the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link and the Talston Hydroelectric project.

To attract private investment and partner with private, public and Indigenous proponents, the CIB has a mandate to invest at least \$5 billion in trade and transportation, including ports, rail and logistics highway, and bridge projects. It continues to seek opportunities in the North and to partner with Indigenous groups and government departments such as CIRNAC, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and CanNor on projects that assist rural and remote communities using its revenue generating model, in areas such as broadband, renewable energy generation to off-set diesel, and trade and transportation infrastructure.

Through investments made in the federal budgets of 2016 and 2017, CIRNAC's Climate Change Preparedness in the North initiative received over \$77 million over eleven years to strengthen climate change adaptation in the North. The program aims at increasing northern and Indigenous communities and governments' resilience to climate change by supporting vulnerability assessments, adaptation planning, and by implementing non-structural and structural adaptation measures.

In addition, through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, the Government of Canada is making new investments in infrastructure to provide communities across the country with the tools they need to prosper and innovate, including \$1.6 billion in investments dedicated to the territories. The program has been updated to adapt to the context of COVID-19, as the COVID-19 Resilience Stream. In 2020, it supported pandemic recovery efforts by rapidly advancing the project approval process to allow for work to get underway. The federal cost-share for this stream was raised to 100% of eligible project costs for the territories. Funding is supporting projects in four categories: retrofits, repairs and upgrades, COVID-19 resilience infrastructure, active transportation infrastructure, and disaster mitigation and adaptation infrastructure.

While the government recognizes that much work needs to be undertaken to improve Arctic infrastructure, it is proud to have recently been a part of some large infrastructure projects in the North. For example, the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway opened in November 2017 after four years of construction. Previously, Tuktoyaktuk was only accessible by air during warmer months and by ice road in the winter. As a result of the new linkage, residents have improved access to health care, educational, and economic opportunities; Inuvik's role as the regional commercial and business hub has been strengthened and expanded; goods can now be shipped year-round to Tuktoyaktuk; and tourism is projected to increase by \$2.7 million annually. Further, the Government continued work on the Iqaluit Deep Sea Port during 2020; the port is anticipated to open

in 2021. This project received funding from the federal government in 2016 and is expected to result in benefits such as faster offloading of sealift vessels at Iqaluit; and greater all-tide access for ocean-going vessels. Finally, the government provided \$21.5 million in funding for the Gray's Bay Road and Port Project. This 230 km road will be the first land connection of Nunavut to the rest of Canada. It will link the rich mineral resources of Canada's Slave Geological Province to Arctic shipping routes; make the territories more attractive for economic investment; and provide a major boost in economic development for Northerners. These projects, along with the others listed in this response, will help to close the infrastructure gap and improve the quality of life of Northerners.

6. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA: 1) DIRECT THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL TO COMPLETE A BUILDING CODE ADAPTED TO ARCTIC CONDITIONS AND THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE; 2) IMPLEMENT AN ACTION PLAN TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON EXISTING AND NEW INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING HOUSING; 3) TAKE IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE HOUSING CRISIS IN THE ARCTIC BY FUNDING A COMPLETE CONTINUUM OF ARCTIC HOUSING; AND 4) REPORT ON THE EFFECTS OF ITS INVESTMENTS ON HOUSING ANNUALLY TO LOCAL, INDIGENOUS AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS

The second goal of the Framework looks to achieve "Strengthened infrastructure that closes gaps with other regions in Canada". One of the objectives for this goal is to "Integrate climate change resilience into new and existing infrastructure." Going forward, the government hopes to address these objectives completely; the work already underway is noted below.

Inadequate housing has particularly affected low-income and Indigenous Peoples and other Northern residents during the pandemic. Poor conditions and lack of privacy are inadequate for safe quarantines, especially if the household is overcrowded. Many Indigenous Peoples live in multiple-generation family homes.

The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) is working with the First Nations National Building Officers Association (FNNBOA) and an Indigenous Advisory group to develop a *Technical Guide for Northern Housing*, which will provide best practices for successful home construction in Northern areas. To develop this guide, NRC consulted with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities and architects on home design specific to Indigenous and Northern housing needs. This four-year project is a collaboration between NRC, Natural Resources Canada, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and ISC.

The NRC is also collaborating in the development and review of the Standards Council of Canada's Northern Infrastructure Standardization Initiative for Northern buildings, including a reference to a new standard in the *National Building Code of Canada*; working with Infrastructure Canada (INFC) to address the effects of climate change on both buildings and core public infrastructure, with some solutions adaptable to Northern

communities; and extensively involved in research partnerships supporting adaptation measures for Northern infrastructure and housing.

ECCC, in collaboration with the NRC and the Pacific Impact Climate Consortium, published a report in October 2020 entitled *Climate-Resilient Buildings and Core Public Infrastructure: an assessment of the impact of climate change on climatic design data in Canada*. The report assesses how climatic design data relevant to users of the *National Building Code of Canada* and the *Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code* might change as the climate continues to warm. Assessments are made at the regional-to-national scale, including Canada's northern region.

The federal government is committed to providing northern communities with support to develop local, sustainable, and climate resilient infrastructure, including housing solutions. In 2016, the Government of Canada adopted the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* – developed with the provinces and territories and in consultation with Indigenous Peoples – to meet its emissions reduction targets, grow the economy, and build resilience to a changing climate.

As noted in the response to Recommendation 5, through investments made in the 2016 and 2017 federal budgets, CIRNAC's Climate Change Preparedness in the North received over \$77 million to strengthen climate change adaptation in the North. This includes working with federal partners such as the Standards Councils of Canada, and with local partners such as territorial governments and communities, to integrate newly developed northern-specific infrastructure standards into decision-making processes.

Additionally, the Government of Canada released, in 2018, Canada's first ever *National Housing Strategy*, a \$40 billion, 10-year plan that aims to achieve safe and affordable housing for all Canadians. The strategy recognizes that "housing challenges in Canada's North are very different than in the rest of the country"; it provided \$300 million in funding in 2018 to the territorial governments to help offset the higher need and cost of housing.

As part of the Government of Canada's updated 2020 Climate Plan *A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy*, and building on the successes of the Pan-Canadian Framework, the Government is proposing to develop Canada's first-ever *National Adaptation Strategy*, working with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, Indigenous Peoples, and other key partners. The plan includes an investment of \$1.5 billion over three years for green and inclusive community buildings through retrofits, repairs, upgrades, and new builds; this would support job creation, local economic growth, contribute to climate objectives, and serve disadvantaged populations. At least 10% of this funding will be allocated to projects serving First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities, including those in the Arctic and the North.

While many programs exist to address infrastructure gaps, the Government recognizes that more needs to be done to address housing needs and northern infrastructure. We are committed to helping our partners achieve the housing related objectives of the

Framework. Going forward through the Framework co-implementation process, we are working with our partners to improve housing outcomes in the north.

7. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ESTABLISH A BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACTION PLAN WITH DEDICATED FUNDS TO SUPPORT FIBRE DEPLOYMENT TO UNDERSERVED REGIONS IN THE CANADIAN ARCTIC BY MARCH 2020

This recommendation aligns well with the second goal of the Framework: “Strengthened infrastructure that closes gaps with other regions of Canada”. It specifically corresponds to two objectives for that goal: fast, reliable, and affordable broadband connectivity for all; and development of multi-purpose corridors for broadband, energy, and transportation, including connections to hydroelectricity grids.

Canada’s Arctic communities are spread across large distances with difficult and remote geography, which makes the business case for network expansion challenging. Many Northern and Indigenous communities struggle to make full use of the Internet due to unreliable and costly telecommunications services. The lack of connectivity also raises concerns about prolonged impacts on educational outcomes for regional youth. This concern has been especially prevalent during the COVID-19 pandemic, during which in-person meetings have been restricted; the transition to virtual education and healthcare has been hindered or prevented in the north because of its connectivity deficits.

Canadians need reliable access to affordable, high-speed Internet, as it enables economic development opportunities and allows for the use of key tools like telehealth and e-learning. Nationally, household access to high-speed broadband Internet of at least 50/10 Mbps reached 87.4% in 2019. However, only 45.6% of rural and 32.5% of First Nation households on reserve have access to this speed, compared to 98.6% of urban homes. In the North, the lack of high-speed Internet access is even more acute.

In June 2019 the Government of Canada released *High-Speed Access for All: Canada's Connectivity Strategy*, a plan to ensure all Canadians have access to fast and reliable internet, no matter where they live. The strategy sets out universal connectivity targets; includes affordability, reliability, and scalability considerations; and recognizes the need to work with partners and other levels of governments to roll out funding in a coordinated fashion.

The federal government has provided billions in connectivity infrastructure funding to support the Strategy, with the goal of connecting all Canadians to high-speed internet by 2030. This funding includes: the \$585 million Connect to Innovate (CTI) program; the \$2 billion Rural and Northern stream of INFC’s Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), under which broadband projects are eligible; the \$750 million Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) Broadband Fund; the \$2 billion for broadband financing available under the CIB’s *Growth Plan*, and the \$1.75 billion Universal Broadband Fund, launched in fall 2020. CanNor also has complementary programming that can support small scale construction and capacity building.

Through these supports, a number of federally funded projects have already been announced that will improve connectivity in the Arctic and the North, with more anticipated to follow. Given the vast and challenging landscape of Canada's Arctic, a variety of network infrastructure and technological solutions will be needed to achieve Canada's universal high-speed connectivity target in the region. Substantial investments are thus being made not only in fibre, but also in satellite technologies.

Various current examples of terrestrial fibre deployment and expansion initiatives can be cited:

- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's CTI Program is funding a \$62.6 million project to improve connectivity for 14 Inuit communities in Nunavik, Quebec, which includes an undersea fibre link in the Hudson Bay.
- In 2019, Nunavut dedicated its entire ICIP Rural and Northern stream allocation (\$151 million) to a fibre broadband project that will connect Iqaluit and Kimmirut through undersea fibre.
- A fibre line is being built along the Dempster highway from Dawson, Yukon, to Inuvik, Northwest Territories, with \$30 million in support from the CTI program, \$29 million from ICIP and \$5 million from the Yukon government. This link will help form a fibre loop, which will ensure more robust service and prevent outages in Yukon and in the Mackenzie Valley region of the Northwest Territories.
- Federal capacity building support of over \$1.6 million was provided by CanNor in 2019-20 to conduct a two-year technical and feasibility study for a hydroelectric and fibre-optic link between Northern Manitoba and the Kivalliq region of Nunavut.

Both fibre and satellite projects have been announced under the CRTC Broadband Fund. The program's first call for applications focussed on the territories and satellite-dependent communities in the North. Successful projects under this call were announced in August 2020, with five projects being awarded \$72 million to connect 51 communities in northern Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, and Yukon. In February 2020, a further five projects were awarded \$26.67 million in funding from the second, national call with more project announcements forthcoming.

Investments are also being made in Low Earth Orbit satellite technology - a promising high-speed solution for the most challenging to reach areas of the Arctic. To help connect these remote communities, the Government of Canada has partnered with Telesat and invested up to \$600 million to secure LEO satellite capacity over Canada once Telesat's constellation is operational. These satellites are anticipated to provide high-bandwidth, low-latency broadband internet coverage to Canada's far North in 2022. Another notable CTI satellite investment saw the connection of all 25 Nunavut communities via a high-throughput satellite.

Overall, through implementation of *Canada's Connectivity Strategy*, historic broadband investments and support from all stakeholders, progress has been and will continue to

be made to reach our goal of connecting all Canadians to high-speed internet, no matter where they live.

8. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ENSURE ARCTIC AND NORTHERN COMMUNITIES HAVE RELIABLE AND SECURE FORMS OF ENERGY, INCLUDING RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ALTERNATES TO DIESEL BASED ON LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The second goal of the Framework, “Strengthened infrastructure that closes gaps with other regions of Canada,” and specifically its objective to “Achieve energy security and sustainability in all communities and improve access to reliable, affordable and clean energy solutions,” is well-aligned with this recommendation, and work is underway to address it. Ensuring that Arctic and northern communities have reliable and secure forms of energy also aligns with the Government of Canada’s commitments set out in the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*.

In 2019, the Government of Canada committed to ensuring that all communities, including Arctic and northern Indigenous communities that currently rely on diesel, are powered by clean, reliable energy by 2030. Prior to this commitment, in 2016 the Government of Canada invested \$53.5 million over 10 years through CIRNAC’s Northern Responsible Energy Approach for Heat and Electricity program (Northern REACHE) to implement clean energy projects in off-grid Indigenous and northern communities. In 2017, a further \$220 million over four years was announced through Natural Resources Canada’s (NRCan) Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities program for initiatives to reduce reliance on diesel fuel in rural and remote communities. This targeted funding was significantly augmented by the \$1.6 billion committed over 12 years in Budget 2019 under the *Investing in Canada Plan* for infrastructure development, including \$400 million for the Arctic Energy Fund to help people in northern communities access more reliable and renewable energy.

In support of the 2019 commitment, Canada’s strengthened Climate Plan, announced in December 2020, earmarks an additional \$300 million to transition northern and remote Indigenous communities toward more secure, affordable clean energy.

In addition, the CIB recently announced \$2.5 billion for clean power to support renewable generation and storage and to transmit clean electricity between provinces, territories, and regions, including to northern and Indigenous communities. As well, the CIB’s *Growth Plan* included \$2 billion to invest in large-scale building retrofits to increase energy efficiency.

Implementation of the ambitious 2019 commitment is shared between NRCan, INFC, CIRNAC, and ISC, as stated in their respective mandate letters. Specific federal actions to reduce reliance on diesel fuel in rural, remote, Indigenous and northern communities include:

- funding support for Nunavut's first hybrid diesel and solar energy power plant, which began construction in 2020;
- NRCan support for over 40 northern initiatives that are building capacity and deploying clean energy projects that will displace diesel fuel;
- partnering with Ontario to advance the First Nation-led Wataynikaneyap Power project, which will connect 16 remote northern First Nations to the provincial electricity grid;
- the Impact Canada Indigenous Off-Diesel Initiative, which, in 2019, selected Community Energy Champions from seven provinces and territories which are now working with their communities to develop and implement ambitious clean energy plans;
- The Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities program, which has funded 87 demonstration and deployment of renewable energy projects which encourage energy efficiency and work to build capacity in rural and remote communities;
- the Northern Responsible Energy Approach for the Community Heat and Electricity Program, which has supported 59 clean energy projects in northern communities since 2018;
- CanNor investments, since 2015, of \$31.1 million in 63 clean technology projects across the Territories, supported by actions under the Low Carbon Economy Fund (for example, Yukon was provided \$31 million to expand existing retrofit programs to help homeowners, businesses, municipalities, First Nation governments, and local industries increase the energy efficiency of existing buildings); and
- Polar Knowledge Canada work with northern communities, government partners and academia to advance sustainable energy, technology and infrastructure solutions for the unique environmental, social and cultural conditions in the North by testing and demonstrating technologies that are close to, or beyond, commercialisation prior to their deployment in northern communities.

Finally, the Government of Canada is working closely with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Inuit land claims organizations to implement the *National Inuit Climate Change Strategy*, including support for regional and community-driven energy solutions that will enable Inuit energy independence.

Federal departments will continue to work collaboratively to support Arctic and northern communities to pursue their clean energy ambitions. This includes coordinating and streamlining efforts to ensure that communities have ready access to federal funding and expertise to facilitate their transition to clean energy, to both create jobs and contribute to building a strong, diversified, sustainable and dynamic northern economy.

9. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SUPPORT INDIGENOUS AND/OR TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS TO: 1) INCREASE FUNDING FOR BASIC ADULT EDUCATION IN THE ARCTIC; 2) ENSURE STUDENTS CAN PURSUE STUDIES IN THEIR INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE; AND 3) SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT TO ESTABLISH A UNIVERSITY IN THE EASTERN ARCTIC

The government recognizes the need for additional education opportunities in the Arctic and notes that this work has already begun in these areas. This recommendation aligns well with the 1st goal of the Framework: “Canadian Arctic and northern Indigenous Peoples are resilient and healthy.”

The Government has begun the work required to implement this through the launching, by CIRNAC in October 2020, of a Task Force on Post-Secondary Education in the North. The mandate of the independent Task Force is to develop recommendations that will lead to greater post-secondary opportunities in the North and Arctic; to close gaps in education outcomes; and to provide ongoing learning and skills development opportunities, including Indigenous-based knowledge and skills. Task Force members are a diverse representation of Northerners with unique expertise and experiences.

The Government is also providing \$26 million over five years to upgrade Yukon University through the construction of a new science facility. Yukon College became Yukon University in May 2020; the upgrade of the campus with a science building helps to facilitate this transition, and puts the education and research needs of Northerners first. This will help close the gaps in post-secondary education in the north and provide Northerners with additional skills and knowledge.

Further, the Government is providing \$12.97 million dollars over five years to the Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning. The Centre will help close gaps in post-secondary education in the north by offering programming that is culturally relevant to Indigenous People. A not-for-profit organization based out of Yellowknife, it offers a unique and innovative land-based program and accredited university courses with particular value given to on-the-land learning, culturally relevant programming and the ability for students to pursue education in their language of choice.

Finally, since 2011, CanNor’s Northern Adult Basic Education Program has expanded access to targeted training in the territories for working-age Northerners, particularly in remote communities. Delivered through the territorial colleges and Yukon University, this education support program is helping Northerners participate more fully in the labour market.

10. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS, BUILD UPON AND SUPPORT EXISTING TERRITORIAL EDUCATION AND LABOUR FORCE STRATEGIES BASED ON ARCTIC PEOPLES' PRIORITIES AND NEEDS, TO DECREASE THE RELIANCE ON SOUTHERN WORKERS

The Government recognizes the need for Northerners to direct the priorities and needs of northern education and to assume greater self-sufficiency for the northern work force. This recommendation aligns well with the 1st goal of the Framework: "Canadian Arctic and northern Indigenous Peoples are resilient and healthy."

In December 2019, a new Directive on Government Contracts, Including Real Property Leases, in the Nunavut Settlement Area took effect which provides support and assistance to Inuit firms in order to enable them to better compete for government contracts, including real property leases. The federal Government expects that this will increase participation by Inuit firms in business opportunities in Nunavut. This aligns with Article 24 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, which states that "The Government of Canada and the Territorial Government shall provide reasonable support and assistance to Inuit firms in accordance with this Article to enable them to compete for government contracts."

This recommendation also implicates the implementation of Article 23 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. The stated objective of Article 23 of the Nunavut Agreement is to increase Inuit participation in government employment to a representative level. The new Directive on Government Contracts will contribute to the government's obligation under Article 23. Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) is responsible for developing the Nunavut Inuit Labour Force Analysis (NILFA), which is being used by government organizations in Nunavut to assist in formulating Inuit employment plans and pre-employment training plans. A revised NILFA was due in 2020, as an obligation of the Government under the 2015 Settlement Agreement.

In 2016, Pilimmaksaivik (Federal Centre of Excellence for Inuit Employment in Nunavut) was created to serve as the 'central coordinating office' for Inuit employment in government. As of 2019, Pilimmaksaivik has been permanently established in Nunavut in the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, to support the Government of Canada's commitments under Article 23 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. As part of Canada's obligations under Article 23, Pilimmaksaivik released a whole-of-government Inuit Employment Plan in 2017 which identifies barriers and commitments to action in four broad themes: recruitment; selection and assessment; retention; and, supporting advancement and talent management.

Canada will invest \$50 million to fund activities to increase the employment of Nunavut Inuit in the government of Canada and Nunavut. Through Pilimmaksaivik, federal investments have centered on the delivery of two programs: the Education Support Fund which facilitates a partnered approach with federal departments with Article 23 responsibilities in order to support existing Inuit employees in completing post-

secondary training; and Sivuliqtiunirmut Ilinniarniq (Leadership Training), a program which encourages the involvement of Inuit Elders and Leaders in learning modules through dedicated classroom-based training focused on needs identified by participants.

The Government of Canada continues to strategically develop and invest in supports and training for Inuit employees in government. As the pre-employment training plan is developed and implemented, it is expected that draws on the \$50 million envelope will increase.

Through Labour Market Development Agreements (LMDA) and the Workforce Development Agreements (WDA), ESDC provides funding to all provinces and territories to design and deliver skills and employment programming designed to meet the local needs and realities of each jurisdiction.

For fiscal year 2020-21, the territories received over \$28 million in funding, including the additional funds provided in response to the pandemic, to support Canadian workers looking to re-enter the workforce, and in particular those in hard-hit sectors and disadvantaged groups.

The agreements include provisions for provincial and territorial governments to undertake annual stakeholder consultations to inform priorities for investments based on local needs.

11. THAT EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CANADA AND INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CANADA: 1) IMMEDIATELY ADAPT ITS SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS TO THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND LABOUR FORCE REALITIES OF THE ARCTIC; 2) WITH INDIGENOUS AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS, USE DATA TO BETTER TARGET FEDERAL INVESTMENTS IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO ARCTIC PEOPLES' PRIORITIES AND THE LABOUR MARKET TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THIS GENERATION OF ARCTIC YOUTH; AND 3) INVEST IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN SUCH AREAS AS TRADES, ARTS AND CONSERVATION SECTORS, OR OTHER PRIORITIES AS IDENTIFIED BY NORTHERNERS

This recommendation aligns well with the 1st and 8th goals of the Framework: "Canadian Arctic and northern Indigenous Peoples are resilient and healthy," and "Reconciliation supports self-determination and nurtures mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples".

For example, based on 2019 engagement with Indigenous and northern youth on barriers to employment, Natural Resources Canada's Skills & Training Internship Program (STIP - funded through the ESDC-led Youth Employment and Skills Strategy) removed the program's post-secondary eligibility requirement and added training as an eligible expense. These changes extended the reach of the program and removed

barriers for Indigenous and northern youth, as well as for employers wanting to hire them.

ESDC's Indigenous Skills and Employment (ISET) program, funded at \$2 billion over 5 years and \$408.2 million ongoing, also aims to reduce employment and skills gaps between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population. Announced in 2018, the program enhances the capacity of Indigenous organizations and structures to customize culturally-appropriate services which support First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people in achieving their employment goals throughout the employment continuum. This distinctions-based approach, with additional funding and enhanced administrative flexibilities, enables Indigenous organizations to design and deliver labour market strategies that recognize and respond to the unique needs of their members.

ESDC's Skills and Partnership Fund (SPF), launched in 2010 and funded at \$50 million per year on an ongoing basis, is a strategic partnership and project-based fund focused on training Indigenous Peoples for specific, higher skilled jobs that align with emerging labour market needs and government priorities. The SPF supports collaboration between Indigenous organizations and employers to respond to changes at the local, regional and national level. To date, ESDC has funded five projects, providing a total of \$24.8 million to Inuit organizations.

The Government of Canada also recognizes that training of emerging artists and cultural leaders is essential for the development and ongoing stability of the arts sector. The Senate Committee's report notes the importance of art, traditional games, stories, song, and dance in the Arctic and northern regions for strengthening language and building healthy communities. This is especially relevant in remote and underserved regions in the Arctic.

The Canada Arts Training Fund considers the needs of underserved and emerging training organizations, and has the provision to raise the limit of its contribution to 80% of eligible expenses for Indigenous and racialized arts training organizations. In Iqaluit, the Qaggiavuut! Nunavut Performing Arts Centre received \$100,000 in 2020-21 through the Canada Arts Training Fund for the Qaggiq School of Performing Arts, the only Inuit-focussed arts training organization in Canada. The Government is committed to identifying and addressing barriers in the Canada Arts Training Fund to ensure access to the program.

Finally, CanNor has used grants and contributions programs to enhance skills development infrastructure in the North on a project-by-project basis. For example, the agency is investing nearly \$800,000 towards a three-year project to renovate a commercial space into a collaborative space, thereby supporting skills development, job creation, and innovative new businesses in Yellowknife.

CULTURE AS A PATHWAY TO STRONG AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

12. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, WITH INDIGENOUS, TERRITORIAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, TAKE IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH THAT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT INDIGENOUS NORMS, VALUES AND LANGUAGES IN THE ARCTIC AND NORTHERN REGIONS WITH SPECIFIC INVESTMENTS, GOALS AND MEASURABLE OUTCOMES REPORTED ANNUALLY TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

The Government of Canada continues to work with partners at both the national and regional levels to implement the Framework, which provides a comprehensive roadmap for addressing gaps in areas which include employment, community infrastructure, health, and education. The Government's work to address the social determinants of health is informed through investment, extensive relationship building and co-decision-making, following the lead of Indigenous and territorial partners.

ISC continues to strengthen its working relationships with Métis, First Nations, Inuit, and territorial government partners based on an approach of mutual respect and enhanced collaboration. Existing bilateral and trilateral tables present an opportunity to engage partners on issues relating to community-based health programming, including the social determinants of health.

For instance, ISC works in close partnership with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami at the national level and with Inuit regional land claims organizations to increase access to health services and to improve health outcomes. As part of these efforts, the department has committed to an Inuit Health Approach which states that it will "work with Inuit, territorial and provincial governments, and other federal partners to develop an approach to Inuit health that informs planning." Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami also participates on committees and working groups to collaborate on areas of mutual interest and advance Inuit health priorities.

These relationships have supported meaningful changes in Indigenous communities in terms of levels of access to services, number of community-based workers, partnerships with provincial and territorial health systems, and better linkages with the Indigenous social determinants of health.

For instance, in recent years, the Government of Canada has provided funding to eliminate tuberculosis in Inuit Nunangat; improve housing conditions and infrastructure; expand access to mental health professionals, including access to traditional healers; and support the implementation of the National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy, which was developed by and for Inuit. Additionally, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), in partnership with the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, is supporting the construction of a new Nunavut Recovery Centre, which will provide a range of treatment and healing interventions that will address both addictions and trauma, founded on Inuit cultural practices and values.

Socio-economic outcomes are addressed in ISC's *Annual Report to Parliament 2020*. Specifically, the departmental annual report provides a broad overview of the socioeconomic gaps between First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and the non-Indigenous population of Canada. It focuses on the steps that ISC has taken over the past five years to address socioeconomic gaps, and highlights specific activities and initiatives undertaken to ensure that Indigenous Peoples achieve substantive equality and outcomes.

ISC has regular bilateral meetings with territorial governments, and trilateral partnership tables are in place in Nunavut and Yukon. The Government of Canada has provided significant health and social support to northern communities, including funding for the three territorial governments to support their preparedness and response to COVID-19.

The Federal Government has also provided support to northern air carriers, non-repayable support for territorial businesses and increased support to Nutrition North Canada (NNC) to help families access nutrition and hygiene products.

Indigenous Northerners are also now benefiting from the Harvesters Support Grant (HSG), which supports harvesters and communities in reducing the financial burden associated with traditional hunting and harvesting via a community grant. This grant supports the complete range of harvesting activities and traditions, from community decision making to ceremony and celebration of the harvest. The HSG was developed in 2019–20 by NNC in direct collaboration with Indigenous partners, including Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. In 2021–22, CIRNAC will continue taking action to address the high cost of food in isolated Northern communities and to support made-in-the-North solutions, including NNC work with Indigenous and community partners to further improve the HSG program. A key engagement activity with Indigenous partners will be the co-development of program performance indicators that are meaningful for the communities served by the program.

The Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs is currently undertaking a special study on Food Security in Northern Communities. Witnesses from Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Makivik Corporation, Nunatsiavut Government, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated have stated that poverty is the main driver of food insecurity in Inuit Nunangat. The COVID-19 pandemic has helped to shed light on socio-economic inequities and infrastructure gaps that remote communities continue to face. The outcomes of this study will provide vital information about the complexities of the social determinants of health and may demonstrate how infrastructure will be key to addressing many of these gaps.

CanNor's Northern Isolated Community Initiative supports local, community-led projects that address food security concerns by reducing dependence on the southern food industry and associated costs (e.g. transportation and storage) for isolated communities in the territories. This initiative supports investments in northern small- and medium-

sized enterprises, territorial governments, and community organizations pursuing food security-related projects.

ISC supports the Inuit-specific Child First Initiative, which ensures that Inuit children have access to needed health, social and education products, services and supports. Between April 1, 2019 and November 30, 2020, more than 25,000 products, services and supports were approved under this initiative.

In the September 23, 2020 Speech from the Throne, the Government of Canada committed to expedite work to co-develop distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation with First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation. This represents a unique opportunity to ensure that all Indigenous Peoples have access to high-quality and culturally relevant health care services. The Government is committed to co-developing Indigenous health legislation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis that responds to the realities of Indigenous communities and increases their control over service development and delivery.

Many of the social, economic and environmental factors that determine individual and population health are outlined in other recommendation responses in this report. Actions to address these recommendations will impact the social determinants of health in Arctic and Northern regions by improving health, well-being, living conditions, and access to opportunities. Direct and indirect improvements to health can be achieved, for example, through action to address determinants such as governance (recommendation response 1), built environment (response 5), climate change (responses 5, 6, 16), housing (response 6), access to telecommunications (response 7), education and skills training (responses 9-11), and culture (responses 13-15), among others.

13. THAT CANADIAN HERITAGE INCREASE ITS INVESTMENTS IN THE NORTHERN ABORIGINAL BROADCASTING PROGRAM AND EXTEND MULTI-YEAR, FLEXIBLE FUNDING SPECIFIC TO ARCTIC RECIPIENTS SO THEY CAN PRODUCE CONTENT IN THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE OF THEIR CHOICE

This recommendation aligns well with the 8th goal of the Framework: “Reconciliation supports self-determination and nurtures mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.” and particularly, with the subsequent objective to “Reclaim, revitalize, maintain and strengthen the cultures of Arctic and Northern Indigenous Peoples, including their languages and knowledge systems.”

Through the Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program, Canadian Heritage currently has an existing funding envelope for the Northern Aboriginal Broadcasting (NAB) component. Progress is being made on the provision of multi-year funding to recipients: an approach is being piloted in the current funding intake to provide funding over two fiscal years to successful recipients in order to provide stability and to reduce the administrative burden. In addition, the Government is developing a strategy to support Indigenous languages and culture following the *Indigenous Languages Act* receiving Royal Assent. Within the implementation of the *Act*, the NAB may be looked to as a

potential funding mechanism to support this strategy.

14. THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL, INDIGENOUS AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS, SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI-USE COMMUNITY CENTRES FOR THE PRACTICE OF ARTS, CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

This recommendation aligns well with the 1st, 2nd, and 8th goals of the Framework: “Canadian Arctic and northern Indigenous Peoples are resilient and healthy,” “Strengthened infrastructure that closes gaps with other regions of Canada,” and “Reconciliation supports self-determination and nurtures mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.”

The Government of Canada recognizes the important role that multi-use community centres play as inclusive spaces that address community needs related to the arts, culture and language, including those of Indigenous communities. The Senate Committee report outlines ways in which Arctic communities can benefit from multi-use cultural hubs and infrastructure as important places for learning, creating and healing, and on how such infrastructure development in the region is lacking.

The Government welcomes this recommendation to work closely with local, Indigenous and territorial governments to support the development of multi-use community centres, and of cultural spaces, more generally. The Canada Cultural Spaces Fund provided, for example, \$562,666 in funding in 2019-20 to the Town of Inuvik, a remote Arctic community with a population of 3,500 people, for upgrades to the outdoor performance space in Chief Jim Koe Park for festivals, cultural events and celebrations. In addition to direct funding for arts organizations, eligible recipients include Indigenous governments and their agencies, in order to further ensure equitable access to this program. The program will continue to work with Arctic communities to better understand the needs and potential impacts from these infrastructure investments.

To help create a diversified, sustainable, and dynamic economy across the territories that supports the prosperity of all Northerners, including Indigenous People and their communities, CanNor continues to make investments in foundational economic infrastructure, including the economic development components of multi-use community centres. For example, the agency recently supported the expansion of the Nattilik Heritage Centre in Gjoa Haven, to capitalize on the Parks Canada commitment to develop the Franklin Interpretative space and visitor's centre, following the *Erebus* and *Terror* discoveries in 2014 and 2016.

15. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND THE CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS WORK WITH INDIGENOUS AND ARCTIC ARTS ORGANIZATIONS, TO PROVIDE LOCAL OUTREACH TO ARCTIC AND NORTHERN ARTISTS, INCLUDING SPECIFIC SUPPORTS TO EMERGING ARTISTS IN SUCH AREAS AS BUILDING CAPACITY TO APPLY FOR GRANTS AND TO EXHIBIT THEIR WORK

This recommendation aligns well with the 3rd and 8th goal of the Framework, “Strong, sustainable, diversified and inclusive local and regional economies,” and “Reconciliation supports self-determination and nurtures mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.”

The government is building on its arts and culture investments. For example, in the Northwest Territories, \$14.5 million was allocated from 2016 to 2021 through the Canada Arts Presentation Fund, Canada Cultural Spaces Fund, Canada Arts Training Fund and the Canada Cultural Investment Fund.

The Canada Council for the Arts is also a member of the international advisory board of the Arctic Arts Summit, which aims to support circumpolar collaboration in arts and culture. Through recent Summits, the Council, the Department of Canadian Heritage, and Global Affairs Canada have worked together to demonstrate Canada’s commitment to the Arctic and its Indigenous Peoples and cultures, and to engage with circumpolar countries on cultural policy. The Council will host the next Arctic Arts Summit in 2022, in partnership with the Government of the Yukon.

The Canada Council for the Arts is now preparing its strategic plan for the period 2021-26. The Council made a concerted effort to include Northern stakeholders in its public engagement sessions for the plan, including a live online dialogue session dedicated to territorial stakeholders, and a meeting with Indigenous stakeholders from the North organized by the Council’s Indigenous-led program, Creating, Knowing, Sharing: the Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Feedback from these sessions will be taken into account in the new strategic plan. The Canada Council for the Arts welcomes this recommendation to work with Northern and Arctic arts organizations and artists.

SCIENCE, INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

16. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA COLLABORATE WITH TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS, ARCTIC INDIGENOUS GOVERNING BODIES, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND INDUSTRY TO GROW THE SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY OF NORTHERN AGENCIES AND PEOPLES RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVISING ADAPTATION EFFORTS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

This recommendation is well-aligned with the fifth goal of the Framework, “Canadian Arctic and northern Ecosystems are resilient and healthy”.

As mentioned in Canada’s previous climate action plan, the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*, the Arctic and north is experiencing climate change at almost twice the rate of southern Canada and the impacts are felt much more keenly. In this light, the Government recognizes the significance of, and is committed to strengthen, collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, investment in northern and Indigenous capacity as it relates to climate change, and use of Indigenous Knowledge

to understand both climate impacts and adaptation measures, as demonstrated through the following examples.

As part of the Government of Canada's updated climate plan, *A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy*, the Government is committed to building Indigenous climate leadership, including supporting Indigenous approaches and ways of doing, and acknowledging and implementing Indigenous knowledge systems as an equal part in devising climate change solutions. This work will be facilitated in part through the development of a *National Adaptation Strategy*, through which the Government will work with provincial, territorial and municipal governments, Indigenous Peoples, and other key partners to establish a shared vision for climate resiliency across Canada, identify key priorities for increased collaboration, and establish a framework for measuring national progress.

As noted in the responses to Recommendations 5 and 6, through investments made in the 2016 and 2017 federal budgets, CIRNAC's Climate Change Preparedness in the North program received over \$77 million over 11 years to strengthen climate change adaptation in the North. The initiative aims to increase the resiliency of northern and Indigenous communities and governments to climate change, including supporting climate-related capacity building and intergenerational knowledge transfer.

Under the Northern Contaminants Program, led by CIRNAC in partnership with ECCC and Health Canada, Indigenous engagement and capacity building is part of every funded project. For example, the Inuit Field Training Program encourage Inuit youth with an interest in research to pursue science-based careers; an ECCC Inuit Hiring plan identifies educational support and career progression options that will support future science capacity in the North; training and capacity building is built into partnerships such as the Sahtu-funded Indigenous Guardians programs; and ECCC has made efforts to include Indigenous knowledge in research by collaborating on research programs with Indigenous communities/researchers as equal partners and co-leads in the research process.

To support implementation of the *National Inuit Climate Change Strategy*, the Government of Canada provided \$1 million to Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami in June 2019. This included support for advancing Inuit capacity and knowledge in climate decision-making, and for improving access to climate data to improve local and regional climate adaptation.

Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR) is working to ensure that Northerners and Indigenous Peoples have the tools and resources to participate in all aspects of the research process. To further this goal, the newly-appointed POLAR president will reside in Cambridge Bay to help foster relationships with Nunavummiut. POLAR is also supporting programs such as the Nunavut Arctic College and Ikaarvik, which provide training and educational opportunities relating to research and Indigenous knowledge; enhancing northern and Indigenous access to research funding and involvement in research projects by requiring a partnership with a northern-based or Indigenous

organization; supporting early career researchers through the POLAR Northern Resident Scholarships and POLAR Northern Resident Awards; and supporting community-led research, monitoring and conservation efforts.

Transport Canada (TC) has funded research and collaborative activities to increase capacity to adapt northern transportation systems to climate change. Since 2011, under the Northern Transportation Adaptation Initiative, TC has emphasized interdisciplinary collaboration among those responsible for key northern transportation assets and operations, including governments, academia and industry.

In the context of climate change, it is essential for governments and communities to make informed decisions on land use and resource management in the North. Through the Natural Resources Canada-led Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan (CMMP), the federal, provincial and territorial governments are collaborating with Arctic Indigenous governing bodies, academic institutions and industry to plan for and adopt adaptation measures. Under the CMMP, the Pan-Canadian Geoscience Strategy is being developed to increase the accessibility of public geoscience, and to examine ways to enhance collaboration on geoscience innovation.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), through the Coastal Environmental Baseline Program, under the Oceans Protection Plan, is working with partners to collect biological and oceanographic data to characterize the state of key coastal ecosystems in Nunavut. DFO Science is working closely with Indigenous and coastal communities and research partners on this program, and the valuable expertise which communities are providing will inform decisions that could impact sensitive coastal environments and improve understanding of the effects of shipping and development on the marine environment. DFO's Ocean and Freshwater Science Contribution is providing financial assistance to organizations wishing to conduct scientific research and science-related activities aligned with departmental program areas.

ECCC has also long supported academic-led research in the north, including at the PEARL Ridge Lab in Eureka, which advances atmospheric and climate science in the Arctic. Increased knowledge of Arctic atmospheric change contributes to informed policies, regulations and services, and increased capacity to predict and adapt to climate change.

ECCC's National Atmospheric Pollutants Surveillance program has monitoring sites in all three territories, allowing ECCC to collaborate with provinces and territories to maintain and improve their air quality monitoring capabilities. Since 2019, ECCC has been providing additional assistance to help Nunavut establish more robust air quality monitoring capacity for some Iqaluit neighborhoods.

The Canadian Centre for Climate Services (CCCS) was created in 2018 to support the implementation of the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*. The CCCS addresses knowledge barriers to understanding climate impacts and risks by enhancing access to information about the past and future climate, and by providing training and support. The CCCS takes a regionally coordinated approach to delivering

climate services to respond to local needs. Where regional climate organizations do not already exist, CCCS officials support provinces and territories to foster the establishment of such organizations.

The CCCS has worked closely over the last 18 months with territorial Governments to inform the development of a shared vision and an organizational model for a proposed northern climate expert organization to aid in climate service delivery across the region. The organization would enhance the access to and use of northern climate information to understand the impacts of climate change, develop tools, and provide support to Northerners as they build resilience.

In summary, through the funding, programs and initiatives and collaborations outlined above, the Government of Canada is committed to working with and for Northerners and Indigenous Peoples to address the effects of climate change.

17. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA CREATE MECHANISMS FOR ARCTIC INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATIONAL ORGANIZATION'S INPUT INTO FEDERAL RESEARCH GOVERNANCE BODIES, AND PARTNER WITH ARCTIC INDIGENOUS GOVERNING BODIES AND COMMUNITIES IN SETTING ARCTIC RESEARCH PRIORITIES AS IT RELATES TO FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

This recommendation is well aligned with the 4th goal of the Framework: "Knowledge and understanding guides decision making."

Many federal programs already work to incorporate input from Indigenous organizations to set their research priorities. For example, the Northern Contaminants Program has funded research on contaminants in the North based on a multi-partner approach, including federal departments (CIRNAC, ECCC, Health Canada, and DFO), territorial, regional and Indigenous organizations. This model has been identified as a best-practice for inclusion of Arctic and Indigenous perspectives in science and research.

Further, POLAR is working directly with northern and Indigenous partners to establish new mechanisms for the governance and delivery of northern research programming. There is an ongoing commitment to co-develop an Implementation Plan for POLAR's 2020-2025 Science and Technology Framework with northern and Indigenous partners.

These efforts are key to developing shared objectives and delivering research programming that meets the needs of northern and Indigenous organizations and the communities they serve, and they are also establishing a distinctions-based approach to multi-stakeholder review committee procedures. This ensures that the priorities of northern and indigenous leaders from the region in which research is being conducted help to determine which projects are relevant and receive funding.

18. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, WITH INDIGENOUS GOVERNING BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, DEVELOP A GOVERNMENT-WIDE POLICY TO DIRECT HOW INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND SCIENCE CAN BE BETTER SYNERGIZED TO REFLECT A HOLISTIC APPROACH, INCLUDING THE RECOGNITION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS

This recommendation aligns well as part of Goal 4 of the Framework: “Knowledge and understanding guides decision-making.” It also aligns well with its subsequent objective to: “Create and store knowledge in a manner consistent with the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples, balancing ethics, accessibility and culture.”

The synergy of Indigenous knowledge and science requires a flexible approach to meet the various needs of our partners and to coordinate the priorities and mandates of various government departments.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is leading an Interdepartmental Indigenous Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (I-STEM) Cluster to inform and enhance departmental policies, programs, activities and recruitment related to STEM disciplines in order to accelerate the advancement of Indigenous aspirations and innovation in agriculture and natural resource stewardship. The I-STEM Cluster operates as an interdepartmental team and which undertakes collaborative work across the following federal departments and agencies:

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Canadian Space Agency
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Knowledge Circle for Indigenous Inclusion, Canadian Heritage
- Natural Resources Canada
- National Research Council
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
- Office of the Chief Science Advisor, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
- Parks Canada
- Public Services and Procurement Canada

Through both this intra-governmental cooperation and co-development with Indigenous partners, the I-STEM Cluster helps synergize Indigenous knowledge and science. It will use co-development approaches to optimize the impact of federal intramural science in supporting Indigenous innovation in agriculture and natural resource stewardship; build inter-cultural competency of federal scientists and managers; bridge Indigenous and western science knowledge systems; facilitate access to programs that can fund Indigenous-led research; increase Indigenous governance and capacity in research; provide guidance to federal scientists on the protection of Indigenous knowledge, data sovereignty, intellectual property rights and the ethical conduct of research with

Indigenous partners; attract more Indigenous youth into university STEM programs and increase recruitment of Indigenous STEM students and professionals in the public service; and support retention and career advancement of existing Indigenous STEM employees.

AAFC's Science and Technology Branch (STB) also established a Senior Indigenous Science Liaison Officer position in 2017 to lead the Indigenous Science Liaison Office (ISLO), and support AAFC researchers in building relationships, engaging, and ultimately co-developing research projects with Indigenous partners. ISLO does this by providing science-specific Indigenous cultural literacy and intercultural competency training to STB staff, researchers, and management; liaising between researchers and potential Indigenous partners; and providing input in science policy and programming to facilitate Indigenous research partnerships.

AAFC-STB also included Indigenous and Northern agriculture as priorities in its 2018 and 2020 Call for Proposals, encouraging AAFC researchers to submit research proposals that would contribute to understanding of Indigenous food systems and were co-developed with Indigenous research partners. STB also launched, in 2019, a new, flexible internal funding mechanism for AAFC researchers, the Indigenous Agricultural Science Partnerships Program, to support relationship-building activities with potential Indigenous partners in the context of science.

ECCC is developing an Indigenous Knowledge Framework (IKF) to help guide the department's application and protection of Indigenous knowledge and ongoing engagement with Indigenous knowledge holders. The IKF will serve as an internal guidance document for ECCC officials on how to consider, apply and protect Indigenous knowledge in their activities and decisions.

Finally, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' (DFO) Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat promotes the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge holders, as appropriate, in the peer-review process of DFO science which is used to advise departmental decision-making. The incorporation of Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge and local use information is required as part of the assessment stage of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) establishment process in the Arctic, and that this holistic approach continues through MPA management as well.

19. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA: 1) SUPPORT COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS; 2) RECOGNIZE THE CENTRAL ROLE OF CO-MANAGEMENT BODIES IN THE ARCTIC WHEN PROPOSING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION INITIATIVES; AND 3) ENSURE COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING

This recommendation aligns well with the 5th goal of the Framework: "Canadian Arctic and northern ecosystems are healthy and resilient." One of the objectives of this goal is to "Partner with territories, provinces and Indigenous Peoples to recognize, manage and conserve culturally and environmentally significant areas."

ECCC research and initiatives supporting this recommendation include community-based research to help inform conservation efforts, like the Snow Goose project. ECCC works extensively with partner Arctic communities on many levels, as Indigenous knowledge is equally as important as scientific knowledge in understanding the evolving factors (e.g. climate change) that influence the health impacts on wildlife, biota and the northern peoples and communities. Indigenous-scientific knowledge integration also includes partnership in decision-making processes.

ECCC is a leader in actively implementing this recommendation through its indigenous-focused approaches to protected areas monitoring and management. For example, implementing the *Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement* for Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas in the Nunavut Settlement Area, implementing the *Edehzhie Establishment Agreement* (Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area), supporting the Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat to collaborate on a new approach to co-manage Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, and supporting planning and establishment of community-driven conservation efforts through the Canada Nature Fund.

Transport Canada (TC) supports lead agencies in furthering environmental conservation efforts and participates in whole-of-government initiatives as appropriate. It also participates in co-management bodies in the Arctic to facilitate any transportation-related concerns relating to environmental conservation, in support of the lead agency, and supports the whole of government approach to environmental assessment, which can include conservation efforts.

Natural resource development often has a significant presence in communities and regions, and has the potential to drive community development and deliver socio-economic benefits. Communities expect that these projects are carried out responsibly and sustainably. When engaged by industry at early stages of natural resource development, communities can contribute to successful projects by providing local knowledge and mitigating social and environmental impacts. Under the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan, federal and provincial governments, industry, Indigenous Peoples and other stakeholders are working to advance actions that will increase community capacity, build public trust and enable active participation of communities in mining projects.

The Government of Canada has and continues to demonstrate support for Indigenous and community-driven conservation initiatives in the Arctic. In September 2017, the Government of Canada and the Nunatsiavut Government signed a Statement of Intent concerning a Labrador Inuit and Government of Canada collaboration to advance oceans management in the Labrador Sea. In April 2019, the Prime Minister of Canada, along with Inuit leaders of the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee, issued a Joint Leaders Statement committing to collaboration with the Governments of Denmark and Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland) to develop a path forward for advancing the sustainable marine management and environmental protection of the Pikialasorsuaq region (North Water Polynya).

In August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau, together with Inuit and northern leaders, announced the establishment of the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area and the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area in Canada's High Arctic. In establishing these marine protected areas, the Government of Canada recognized and sought the prior approval of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, as obligated within the Nunavut Agreement. In October 2020, the Prime Minister won the National Geographic Planetary Leadership Award for these successful achievements.

Building on these successes, the Government of Canada will continue to collaborate with Inuit organizations, northern governments and Arctic communities to advance marine conservation and marine spatial planning initiatives.

20. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA RECOGNIZE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL EQUITY OPPORTUNITIES IN ARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND INVEST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT A CONSERVATION ECONOMY

This recommendation aligns well with the 5th goal of the Framework: "Canadian Arctic and northern ecosystems are healthy and resilient," including its objective to: "Partner with territories, provinces and Indigenous Peoples to recognize, manage and conserve culturally and environmentally significant areas."

The Navigation Protection Program (NPP), led by TC, helps keep Canada's navigable waters open for transport and recreation. In regards to the NPP, procurement done to address vessels of concern in the Arctic will aim to offer socio-economic opportunities for Indigenous groups.

Led by Parks Canada, the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area and the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area in Canada's were established in August 2019. These came with significant benefits for Inuit and associated communities. The Government of Canada and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association successfully negotiated resources to support Inuit stewardship and hiring programs, fisheries exploration, and significant resources for the construction of needed infrastructure, including four harbours.

TC, through its participation in Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, supports the Parks Canada Agency in implementing the *Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement* by facilitating a role for Inuit Stewards in promoting a safe and secure marine transportation system within the National Marine Conservation Area. TC is also funding the construction of two community harbours, in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay, which in conjunction with the Inuit Stewardship activities will support a conservation economy for the impacted communities.

As part of the 2018 whole-of-government initiative to create the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area in the High Arctic, CanNor is providing \$10 million over four years (2019 to 2023) to co-fund the establishment of a Regional Training Centre in Pond Inlet, owned and operated by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. The Regional Training Centre will be used to train Inuit for employment in various economic sectors including the conservation economy (i.e. Inuit Stewards), science and research, mining and will provide a location for transfer of traditional knowledge and skills.

ECCC is looking to establish new collaborative monitoring agreements with territorial governments and other organizations and stakeholders as a means to improve weather and climate monitoring data in the north. In addition, it is also currently supports research that helps Inuit communities develop a conservation economy. For example, eider research in Sanikiluaq, Nunavut, supports a commercial down harvest industry, while snow goose research is supporting investigations into the feasibility of a commercial snow goose harvest.

THE ARCTIC IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

21. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ENHANCE SUPPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC TO PROVIDE ARCTIC YOUTH WITH INTERNATIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND ENABLE THE NETWORK TO INCREASE ITS ACTIVITIES IN CANADA AND THROUGHOUT THE CIRCUMPOLAR ARCTIC

This recommendation aligns well with the 1st goal of the Framework: "Canadian Arctic and Northern Indigenous Peoples are resilient and healthy."

The Government of Canada is committed to providing Arctic and Northern youth with increased opportunities to participate in, and benefit from, Canada's international Arctic agenda. Increasing the University of the Arctic's (UArctic) activities and programming in Canada's Arctic and North is a commitment within the Framework. Global Affairs Canada (GAC) has dedicated funds to increase Canada's circumpolar engagement and cooperation throughout the UArctic network, notably in support of Arctic youth, including Indigenous youth. Funding will be directed towards projects such as: contributing to increased Indigenous participation in circumpolar higher education initiatives and research cooperation; and, strengthening Northern and Indigenous educational exchanges throughout the circumpolar region.

22. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA INCREASE SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, WHILE ENSURING THAT SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE CANADIAN ARCTIC ARE FOCUSED ON THE KNOWLEDGE NEEDS OF LOCAL ARCTIC RESIDENTS

The Government recognizes the need for scientific activities to be directed at the knowledge needs of Northerners. The fourth goal of the Framework, "Knowledge and understanding guides decision making," aligns well with this recommendation.

International Arctic scientific cooperation helps address knowledge gaps about the Arctic. The federal government encourages international partners to respectfully include Indigenous Knowledge in Arctic research, to ensure that Northerners are involved in the conception, design, and delivery of research that takes place in Canada's North, and to ensure that local residents have access to research results.

Furthermore, the Government of Canada continues to contribute leadership and subject matter expertise to the scientific work of the six working groups of the Arctic Council and conducts bilateral outreach and advocacy on Arctic science and research globally through events, workshops and webinars.

POLAR is involved in supporting international scientific cooperation by facilitating international polar research collaboration through initiatives such as leveraging the CHARS Campus for research and engagement; ensuring that international researchers are prepared to conduct respectful research in Canada's north by implementing the non-marine aspects for the *Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Science Cooperation*; and facilitating research partnerships and enabling access to circumpolar research infrastructure through their role as a participating member in the European Union's Horizon 2020 program via the International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic.

Through the Arctic Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group under the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission of the International Hydrographic Organization, Canada works with other Arctic member states to analyze how authorities and those with an interest in the Arctic marine domain can contribute and share their spatial information. International standards are monitored and used to ensure information can easily be collated with other information to provide a current overall picture for the region, open and accessible by anyone.

Off the northwest coast of Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, and in partnership with Inuit, Canadian scientists are working together with the international science community (e.g., Germany, United Kingdom and Norway) to better understand the unique ecosystem associated with the last permanently ice-covered region where old, multi-year ice persists in the Arctic Ocean. The dramatic decline in sea ice and the change in composition of the remaining ice will result in fundamental changes to the Arctic ecosystem and has far-reaching impacts for the greater Arctic Ocean and for Canadian Arctic communities. This scientific program will inform decisions on marine conservation measures in the region including for the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area under the *Oceans Act*.

The International Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean (CAO) provides a framework for parties to cooperate to better understand the region's ecosystems, and to prevent commercial fishing from occurring until adequate scientific information is available to inform management measures. The CAO Agreement is intended to take into account Indigenous and local knowledge and ensure

the engagement and participation of Arctic Indigenous Peoples throughout the implementation process.

Canada continues to champion and advocate for the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge throughout the implementation of the CAO Agreement with the nine other Parties, including in the context of developing the science program in support of the treaty.

The Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) is presently within its fourth year of funding under the Oceans Protection Plan (OPP), which provided approximately \$20 million in funding for Arctic Hydrography over five years. Additionally, the CHS is the beneficiary of \$0.9 million in ongoing funding for this purpose as a result of the World Class Tanker Safety System initiative. Funds were used to operationalize the hydrographic sonars permanently installed on four Canadian Coast Guard (Coast Guard) icebreakers.

ECCC is involved with many international initiatives that facilitate cooperation between Arctic and non-Arctic states and incorporate Indigenous perspectives. International meteorological initiatives help improve the accuracy of weather, water, ice, and climate predictions, contributing to more informed decision-making. In the Arctic, observational coverage is sparse, and collaboration with other countries and international partners for global data and research is essential to this work. International initiatives, such as the World Meteorological Organization-led Arctic Regional Climate Centre and the Arctic Climate Forum, involve climate stakeholders, including indigenous communities and partners.

Much of ECCC's support for international activities brings Indigenous perspectives to international science initiatives, and often leads to circumpolar countries pushing to include Indigenous knowledge and participation in international science initiatives.

The North Water Polynya, the largest polynya in the Canadian Arctic, is one of the most biologically productive regions north of the Arctic Circle. In January 2016, the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) established the Pikialasorsuaq (Greenlandic term for North Water Polyma) Commission to recommend an Inuit strategy for safeguarding and monitoring the health of the polynya. The Commission's report, "People of the Ice Bridge: The Future of the Pikialasorsuaq", was released in 2017. The report recognizes the importance of this area to local Inuit communities: it sustains Inuit with food and resources, making it invaluable for cultural and spiritual well-being. It recommends identifying a protected area that includes the polynya and a larger management zone, moving toward Inuit-led management of the region, and free movement across Pikialasorsuaq for Inuit people between historically connected communities in Canada and Greenland.

Advancing reconciliation and pursuing a renewed relationship with Indigenous Peoples based on the recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership is a priority for the Government of Canada. Fisheries and Oceans Canada supports Indigenous leadership and collaboration on marine conservation initiatives, and Inuit in Canada and Greenland have begun discussing a path forward. The Government of Canada has also

begun engaging with key Canadian Inuit partners in support of the report's recommendations for Sarvarjuaq (Canadian Inuit term for the North Water Polynya), and has initiated discussions with the governments of Greenland and Denmark towards cooperation around this shared marine area.

23. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ENSURE THE CANADIAN ARCTIC'S SECURITY AND SAFETY AND ASSERT AND PROTECT CANADA'S SOVEREIGNTY IN THE ARCTIC

The government recognizes the need to ensure the Arctic's security and safety and notes that this recommendation aligns well with the Framework's 7th goal that: "The Canadian Arctic and North and its people are safe, secure, and well-defended."

The Framework, through its Safety, Security and Defence Chapter led by the Department of National Defence, highlights the challenges presented by modern threats to Canada's Arctic security and sovereignty, and reinforces commitments made in the defense policy *Strong, Secure, Engaged*. It further articulates that Canada's cooperation in circumpolar affairs must not result in complacency at a time of increased interest and competition from Arctic and non-Arctic states in the region.

The region's increasing accessibility presents opportunities for Arctic and non-Arctic states to pursue economic and military interests that may not align with those of Canada. Although the immediate threat in Canada's Arctic is low, the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) continue to carefully monitor the changing Arctic security environment – including the military actions of other states – and are focused on exercising and enhancing domain awareness and presence in the region. Canada's future economic and environmental security, as well as the safety and well-being of its citizens, depend on our ability to keep up with, understand, and respond quickly to changes occurring in the Arctic.

The Government of Canada has an important footprint in the North. The CAF has a permanent presence, anchored by Joint Task Force North in Yellowknife. Joint Task Force North has approximately 300 personnel, with detachments in Whitehorse and Iqaluit. The CAF is also represented by over 1,800 Canadian Rangers across 60 communities in the North. Joint Task Force North's mission is to collaborate with Arctic partners to enable safety, security, and defence operations while demonstrating sovereignty in support of broader government priorities in Canada's North. Operation NANOOK, the CAF's signature Arctic training exercise, is key to the CAF's continuing ability to operate in the harsh Northern environment. In addition, regular cold-weather exercises are important to demonstrating sovereignty and maintaining the survival skills necessary to operate in the region.

The Government of Canada recognizes the threats to the Arctic and is, pursuant to the Minister of National Defence's mandate letter, exploring options to ensure the continued safety and security of the region. The CAF anticipates that it may increasingly be tasked to provide additional sovereignty and security related functions, including intelligence,

surveillance and reconnaissance activities, search and rescue, and emergency response capabilities in the Arctic. The challenges presented by modern threats and a more accessible Arctic, including non-traditional security challenges, will require collaboration with other government departments, as well as domestic and international partners.

In *Strong, Secure, Engaged*, the Government committed to enhancing the mobility, footprint, and reach of the CAF in the North; it also identified a requirement for enhanced capacity and domain awareness in the Arctic, driven by the changing security environment, increased regional interest and activity, and the importance of continental defence. Efforts are also underway to advance work on continental defence and NORAD modernization.

In parallel, National Defence has also invested \$133 million over the last five years in the All Domain Situational Awareness (ADSA) Science and Technology program to provide advice on enhanced domain awareness of air, maritime surface, and maritime subsurface approaches to Canada and North America with a focus on the Arctic. Work is ongoing to develop options for how future investments in continental defence and NORAD modernization could help ensure that Canada is able to better detect, deter and defend against new and emerging threats to and through the Arctic.

Canada's Arctic sovereignty is long-standing and well-established, as reflected in Government of Canada policy statements such as the Framework. Canada's sovereignty is exercised on a continuous basis, through a variety of domestic and international actions. It is rooted in historic title to the lands and waters of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, founded in part on the presence there of Inuit and First Nations since time immemorial. Ensuring the security and safety of Canada's Arctic is a fundamental aspect of asserting Canada's Arctic sovereignty.

Among the objectives outlined in the Framework, several are focused on security and safety in the Arctic, including commitments to: strengthen Canada's cooperation and collaboration with domestic and international partners on safety, security and defence issues; enhance Canada's military presence; strengthen Canada's domain awareness, surveillance, and control capabilities; and enforce Canada's legislative and regulatory frameworks.

In 2020, the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) took possession of the first of six RCN Arctic Offshore Patrol vessels (AOP), which will conduct armed sea-borne surveillance of maritime areas under Canadian jurisdiction, enhancing situational awareness and control in the Arctic. The Coast Guard will receive two AOP vessels tailored to their specific needs. The Nanisivik Naval Facility and deep water port will offer refueling and logistics support to Government of Canada Coast Guard and naval vessels in Arctic waters.

Advancing work on NORAD modernization and broader continental defence, including collaboration with the United States, will explore new technologies to improve Arctic

surveillance and control, such as the renewal of the North Warning System to detect, deter, and if necessary, defend against all-domain threats to Canada and North America.

Finally, as the Framework makes clear, Northern peoples are at the heart of the Government's safety and security policy in the region, and they continue to be key guardians of sovereignty in the Arctic. At the community level, over 1,800 Canadian Rangers operate across 60 patrols based in Northern and Arctic communities. As the "eyes and ears" of the Canadian military in the Arctic, they provide lightly equipped, self-sufficient, mobile forces in support of Canadian sovereignty and security in the North.

Rangers perform vital tasks towards ensuring the safety and security of Canadians, including assisting local authorities in search and rescue, conducting patrols and training alongside Canadian Armed Forces members, reporting unusual sightings, and responding to natural disasters and other emergencies, including the COVID -19 pandemic.

The Polar Continental Shelf Program (PCSP), led by Natural Resources Canada, coordinates field logistics in support of advancing scientific knowledge and management of Canada's lands and natural resources. As a national service delivery organization, PCSP coordinates logistics for Canadian government agencies, provincial, territorial and northern organizations, universities and independent groups conducting research in Canada's North. Through this work, PCSP contributes to the exercise of Canadian Arctic sovereignty.

Coast Guard's security involvement occurs under its *Oceans Act* mandate to support other government departments and agencies with maritime resources and expertise. Coast Guard's Arctic presence and ability to actively support security and sovereignty will only increase as it brings its new icebreakers and Arctic and offshore patrol vessels into service and continues to enhance its cooperation and interoperability with the Royal Canadian Navy and other security partners operating in northern and Arctic waters.

Coast Guard has a mandate for search and rescue (SAR) in the Arctic, as well as environmental response, maritime domain awareness and marine navigation, and provides fleet resources (icebreakers and crews) in support of the annual Arctic community re-supply. Coast Guard Auxiliary units across the north have been provided with training, as well as Indigenous Community SAR boats under the OPP.

The Marine Communications and Traffic Services (MCTS) Iqaluit and MCTS Prescott stations implement the Northern Canada Vessel Traffic Services Zone Regulations (NORDREG) on behalf of Transport Canada (TC), ensuring seamless vessel traffic services and SAR support for Canada's Arctic. This service provides enhanced information on vessel transit and is responsible for regulating vessel movements; identifying and monitoring vessels; and providing navigational information and assistance to encourage safety, efficient navigation, and environmental protection.

ECCC conducts leading edge environmental and atmospheric (air quality, climate and weather) research and monitoring in the Arctic. The objective of this work is to provide Canadians with authoritative climate, air quality, weather and related information to make informed decisions about their health and safety, economy and environment.

Canadian society requires reassurance that the Arctic is being protected. The international visibility of ECCC-owned sites such as the Eureka Weather Station, the Polar Environment and Atmosphere Research Laboratory (PEARL), and the Dr. Neil Trivett Global Atmosphere Watch Observatory in Alert, Nunavut, illustrate further Canada's exercise of its sovereignty in the Arctic, and of Canadian stewardship in the far North.

The Government of Canada remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of the Canadian Arctic and to working with the United States on our shared responsibility for the defence of North America.

24. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, ON AN IMMEDIATE BASIS, ESTABLISH A ROBUST GOVERNANCE REGIME TO REGULATE ACTIVITIES IN CANADA'S ARCTIC WATERS, INCLUDING SHIPPING CORRIDORS, AND BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS. SUCH A REGULATORY REGIME MUST INCLUDE THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION OF ARCTIC INDIGENOUS GOVERNING BODIES AND COMMUNITIES

Canada has a robust governance regime to regulate activities in its Arctic waterways. Indeed, Canada's Arctic shipping regulatory regime ranks amongst the best in the world, with stringent pollution prevention measures and safety provisions that reflect local hazards and associated risks.

Through the OPP's Northern Low-Impact Shipping Corridors Initiative, TC, Coast Guard and the Canadian Hydrographic Service are engaging with Indigenous partners to develop a governance framework to implement and manage Northern low-impact shipping corridors that promote safe shipping while mitigating impacts on the environment and identifying sensitive geographic areas. It should be noted that the Northern Low-Impact Shipping Corridors Initiative does not include the development of a regulatory regime, nor does it address the issues of bonding or insurance.

25. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ENHANCE MARITIME AND AERIAL SITUATIONAL AWARENESS OF THE CANADIAN ARCTIC, INCLUDING IMPROVING THE ICEBREAKING CAPACITY OF THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD, AND EQUIPPING THE CANADIAN RANGERS' WITH MARINE CAPABILITIES

To detect and deter new and emerging threats to Canada and North America, and to build on commitments made in *Strong, Secure, Engaged* and the 2019 Mandate Letter of the Minister of National Defence, National Defence is exploring options to enhance continental defence and ensure NORAD is modernized in partnership with the United

States. This recommendation aligns well with the 7th goal of the Framework: “The Canadian Arctic and North and its people are safe, secure and well-defended.”

The OPP is putting into place concrete measures to prevent and to better respond to marine pollution incidents, to address abandoned, wrecked and hazardous vessels, and to take action to restore coastal habitats and mitigate the impact of day-to-day vessel operations on marine mammals. Through the OPP, TC, Coast Guard and other partners are undertaking a number of actions to improve marine safety and enforce responsible shipping practices. These contributions are helping to protect Canada’s waters and marine environment; restore and protect marine ecosystems and habitats; and improve collaboration with Indigenous and coastal communities.

Specific OPP measures to help protect Arctic waters, and to allow Canada’s territories to be better equipped to protect their marine environment and coastal communities, include: Safety Equipment and Basic Marine Infrastructure, the Marine Training Program, Northern Low Impact Shipping Corridors, and the Iqaluit National Aerial Surveillance Program Complex.

An interdepartmental senior management oversight committee for the OPP is in place to: maintain oversight of activities; facilitate coordination amongst departments; and provide strategic direction on the OPP. The committee is responsible for reviewing the interdepartmental tracking scheme and overseeing the interdepartmental delivery of the OPP.

Coast Guard supports maritime and aerial domain awareness in the Arctic, and has a mandate for search and rescue (SAR), environmental response, and marine navigation in the Arctic. In addition, Coast Guard partners with National Defence’s Marine Security Operations Centre - East on maritime domain awareness for the Arctic. Coast Guard also provides fleet resources (icebreakers and crews) in support of the annual Arctic community re-supply, and is expanding its fleet to ensure it has the ships needed to carry out its mandate.

In 2018, the Government of Canada purchased three medium interim icebreakers to support icebreaking services and improve the icebreaking capacity of the Coast Guard in Canadian waters. These icebreakers are the CCGS Captain Molly Kool (delivered in December 2018); the CCGS Jean Goodwill (delivered in November 2020) and the CCGS Vincent Massey (to be delivered in 2021). The vessels will also support other Coast Guard programs, such as SAR and environmental response. The icebreakers are the first in Canada to be equipped with a removable towing notch. This unique towing capability allows the ship to safely break ice and tow another vessel at the same time.

Canada is working with the United States on research and development for future surveillance solutions for a system-of-systems that would replace the North Warning System, which is expected to reach the end of its operational and functional life expectancy as early as 2025. However, efforts are being made to sustain the system at least until new capabilities come online. The Government of Canada has committed to

the modernization of NORAD and is, through research and development efforts, exploring innovative solutions to increase multi-domain situational awareness.

National Defence has also invested in the Nanisivik Naval Facility on Northern Baffin Island, Nunavut. When complete, the facility will serve the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) and other government departments, including the Coast Guard, to enhance Arctic maritime capabilities and situational awareness.

National Defence is also investing in the modernization of the RCN and the development of new marine capabilities. Key among these new capabilities are six *Harry DeWolf*-class Arctic Offshore Patrol Vessels, which provide armed, sea-borne surveillance of Canadian Arctic waters. The ice-capable Arctic Offshore Patrol Vessels will provide greater naval capability in the Arctic, with longer range and more autonomy than other platforms. They will also have the capacity to launch extensive helicopter operations and provide support to operations ashore and at sea, as well as significant storage and transport lift capabilities. The *Harry DeWolf*-class vessels will be affiliated with regions of Inuit Nunangat. Affiliation between an HMC Ship, its sailors and civilian communities is a long-standing and honoured naval tradition, with relationships lasting throughout the service life of the ship.

The Canadian Rangers are an important contributor to National Defence's Arctic situational awareness. However, equipping them with marine capabilities would not be consistent with the current structure and purpose of the Canadian Rangers. The Canadian Rangers are a unique sub-component of the Reserve Force and are recruited as local experts, with no further training required. The Canadian Rangers leverage their extensive knowledge and understanding of the remote, isolated, coastal and northern areas of Canada in which they live, and of how to live and survive in, and move across, their local environments. The Canadian Rangers conduct surveillance and sovereignty patrols, and ground search and rescue.

While the Canadian Rangers are allocated a minimal amount of paid training time on an annual basis (up to 12 days) to conduct these activities, the skills required to operate maritime capabilities are considerably different, and should not be expected of individuals upon enrollment in the Rangers. The gaps in equipment, training, and, most importantly, the time that Rangers would have available for such training, are considerable. The Rangers are not Regular forces whose primary function is full-time training for military operations. It should also be noted that from a legal perspective, the Canadian Rangers are prohibited from assisting federal, provincial, territorial or local police in the discovery, reporting and apprehension of enemy agents, saboteurs, criminals or terrorists unless placed on active service under Section 31 of the *National Defence Act*.

As we move forward, National Defence will continue to engage our whole-of-government partners in exploring potential solutions to continental defence challenges that could contribute to Canada's economic recovery and maximize benefits for all Canadians.

26. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA PROPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PAN-ARCTIC INFRASTRUCTURE BANK AT THE ARCTIC COUNCIL AND ENSURE AN IMPROVED INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND TRADE FLOW IN THE CIRCUMPOLAR ARCTIC REGION

Through the Framework, the Government is committed to strong, sustainable, diversified and inclusive local and regional economies, but does not at present support the recommendation to propose the establishment of a Pan-Arctic Infrastructure Bank at the Arctic Council. Reasons include the fact that the Arctic Council, while an effective international forum, is not a legal entity with international treaty-making capabilities. Additionally, it does not have an institutional structure that could support such an initiative. Canada will, however, explore the connections that the Arctic Council has with the Arctic Economic Council, to encourage further cooperation between the two bodies with the goal of supporting infrastructure development in the circumpolar north. The Arctic Economic Council, to which Canadian businesses are members, undertakes activities in the following areas: maritime transport; investments and infrastructure; responsible resource development; connectivity and telecommunications; and, initiatives to take advantage of the “blue economy.”

In this regard, the government takes note of the December 2020 release of the “Arctic Infrastructure Inventory” by the Wilson Center’s Polar Institute, in partnership with the Arctic Economic Council. It identifies an array of nearly 8,000 planned and completed infrastructure projects in the Arctic region. The inventory aims to be a tool and resource to help policymakers, industry leaders, investors, researchers, academics, Indigenous and community leaders and all other Arctic infrastructure stakeholders. It will undoubtedly enhance awareness of the Arctic infrastructure landscape and facilitate greater coordination of projects and proposals.

To help ensure an improved investment climate and trade flow in the circumpolar Arctic region, the Government of Canada, as part of its Trade Diversification Strategy and inclusive approach to trade, will use its Trade Commissioner Service to better connect Arctic and Northern businesses, including Indigenous-led businesses and women entrepreneurs, with export opportunities provided by free trade agreements; to increase their awareness of Canadian Trade Commissioner Service resources; and to help them attract and retain foreign direct investment that increases Canada's competitiveness and safeguards our national security. In addition, through programs such as the National Trade Corridors Fund, Canada will prioritize investments that strengthen the efficiency, resilience and safety of Arctic and Northern transportation infrastructure and support international trade to and from Canada's Arctic and North.

27. THAT, TO ENSURE REGIONAL STABILITY AND FACILITATE INFORMATION-SHARING, THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ESTABLISH A FORUM DEDICATED TO ARCTIC SECURITY ISSUES INVOLVING THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL ARCTIC STATES

This recommendation aligns well with the 7th goal of the Framework: “The Canadian Arctic and North and its people are safe, secure and well-defended.” Specifically, it aligns with its associated objective to “Strengthen Canada’s cooperation and collaboration with domestic and international partners on safety, security and defence issues.” Canada recognizes the absence of an international forum dedicated solely to Arctic security issues, and believes that such a forum could potentially contribute to greater understanding and help avoid miscommunication.

The circumpolar Arctic has historically been – and continues to be – a region of stability and peace. Canada’s overarching defence policy and the Framework both affirm this commitment to cooperation with partners in the Arctic, including on Arctic security issues. Given the harsh environment and the high demands of Arctic operations on resources and capabilities, cooperation amongst Arctic nations on security and safety in the circumpolar region is beneficial. Although organizations such as the Arctic Council and the Arctic Coast Guard Forum explicitly preclude discussion on military security and defence issues, cooperation on specific safety issues – such as Arctic search and rescue, marine oil pollution, and emergency preparedness and response -- is helping to ensure that the opening of the Arctic to increased traffic is done in a safe and secure manner. The exclusion of military security issues from the Arctic Council is important for maintaining the Council’s central role in international Arctic cooperation. Similarly, the Arctic Coast Guard Forum is an operational-level forum that does not address military security.

Although Canada does not see an immediate military threat to the Arctic, increased military exercises, patrols, and operations in the circumpolar Arctic can potentially heighten the risks of misunderstandings and increased tensions. Canada maintains strong defence relationships with most Arctic states and supports dialogue amongst all Arctic nations. Indeed, four of five Arctic coastal states are NATO allies. Among the eight members of the Arctic Council, five are NATO allies, and Sweden and Finland are NATO Enhanced Opportunity Partners. Canada hosted the first meeting of Northern Chiefs of Defence of the eight Arctic states in 2012, to discuss ways in which militaries can support civilian authorities in the North. However, following Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its support for separatist rebels in Eastern Ukraine, these meetings have been halted. Despite Russia’s destabilizing behavior in Ukraine and in other regions and in cyberspace, Canada has continued to engage with Russia in areas of common interest, including in the Arctic. Russia is an active contributor in Arctic affairs, including at the Arctic Council, where Russia will hold the Chairmanship between 2021-2023, and in aforementioned areas such as search and rescue and maritime safety.

The establishment of a new forum, or reinvigoration of an existing forum, for security discussions among all Arctic states would require careful coordination and consideration, including with Canada's international Arctic Allies and partners. Canada's participation in any security-related forum would need to take into consideration broader bilateral and multilateral dynamics, including sanctions regimes and the willingness of all parties to engage in meaningful dialogue. Canada remains committed to a rules-based approach to the Arctic and remains open to further dialogue on all aspects of Arctic governance, including security. The Government of Canada will continue to work with international allies and partners to ensure the Arctic region remains characterized by peaceful relations.

28. THAT, TO REINFORCE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC COOPERATION, THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA INCREASE ITS INVOLVEMENT AT THE ARCTIC COUNCIL AS WELL AS BOLSTER FUNDING FOR INDIGENOUS PERMANENT PARTICIPANTS OF THE COUNCIL

The International Chapter of the Framework outlines the government's commitment to strengthen Canada's leadership and engagement in the Arctic Council, with the goal of increasing the impact of its work for Northerners.

The government will prioritize meaningful Canadian participation and contributions to the work of the Arctic Council's working groups and task forces, with a particular focus on bolstering the Council's work on the human dimension, including social, health, economic and cultural issues. This includes investments announced in 2019 of \$3.8 million over five years to strengthen government's capacity to contribute to the work of the Arctic Council's working groups and task forces, and \$5 million over 5 years to establish a Canadian-based permanent secretariat for the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group. Canada will also continue to advocate for the modernization of the Arctic Council, notably its ongoing transition from a policy-shaping to a policy-making body; for improved monitoring and reporting of national implementation of Arctic Council recommendations and decisions; and for enhanced strategic communication of the Arctic Council's work at home and abroad. Furthermore, the government is investing \$10 million over 5 years to enhance the capacity of the Canada-based Indigenous Permanent Participants (Arctic Athabaskan Council, Gwich'in Council International, Inuit Circumpolar Council) to engage in Arctic Council projects.

Further, a Government of Canada representative from Coast Guard will be the Chair of the Arctic Council's Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response working group starting in 2021.

29. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA INCREASE ARCTIC INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATION AT INTERNATIONAL FORUMS AND TREATY NEGOTIATIONS RELATED TO THE ARCTIC, INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

The Framework's International Chapter commits Canada to enhancing the representation and participation of Arctic and Northern Canadians, especially Indigenous Peoples, in relevant international forums and negotiations. In the Arctic Council, Canada has seen firsthand how the valuable contributions Indigenous Peoples and Northerners make by bringing their unique concerns and perspectives to the table leads to better decision making. For this reason, the government is investing \$10 million over 5 years to enhance the capacity of the three Canada-based Indigenous Permanent Participants (Arctic Athabaskan Council, Gwich'in Council International, Inuit Circumpolar Council) so that they can keep up with the growing workload of the Arctic Council and other international forums.

At the same time, the Government of Canada is strengthening existing domestic engagement mechanisms on Canada's international Arctic policy – such as the Arctic Cooperation Advisory Committee – to provide more meaningful opportunities for territorial, provincial and Indigenous officials to influence Canada's international Arctic policy and programming. Where appropriate, the government is also providing more opportunities for territorial, provincial and Indigenous partners to support or join the Canadian delegation at international Arctic meetings, key multi-stakeholder events such as Arctic Circle, and treaty negotiations such as the Arctic Fisheries Agreement. In terms of Indigenous engagement in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) process, the Government of Canada has engaged northern Indigenous groups during the preparation of Canada's submission on the outer limits of its Arctic Ocean continental shelf (now submitted). Canada will continue to ensure that the rights of Indigenous Peoples are respected when resolving boundary disputes, continental shelf overlaps, and management of shipping in the Arctic Ocean.

The Government of Canada is also committed to working with Indigenous Peoples as full and effective partners in addressing climate change. This includes recognizing the international climate leadership of Indigenous Peoples. The government is fully committed to supporting their rightful voices and participation in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process. To this end, Canada was proud to have played an important part in the creation of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform under the UNFCCC, which aims to strengthen the knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and Indigenous Peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change and to enhance their engagement in the UNFCCC process.

The government also championed the creation of the UNFCCC governing body, the Facilitative Working Group. This body is historic within the UN system, as it sees an equal number of Party and Indigenous Peoples' representatives work together, in partnership, to steward the work of the platform.

These are important steps towards providing Indigenous Peoples' their rightful place at the international table and creating the conditions to advance Indigenous perspectives and solutions to the critical challenges we face. In addition, Canada includes Indigenous representatives in the development of its negotiation positions at the UNFCCC. In order

to do so, Canada utilizes a number of mechanisms to engage representatives of National Indigenous Representative Organizations (NIRs), including Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada, and seek their input.

In addition to collaborating on the development of Canada's negotiating positions, Canada has included NIRs as members of its delegations to the UNFCCC and provides funding to support their participation. Participation on Canada's delegation ensures that Indigenous Peoples can provide input into Canada's positions, and that Government officials can benefit from their perspectives and knowledge.

Canada is committed to supporting increased Indigenous representation at the International Maritime Organization (IMO). This includes, but is not limited to, facilitating participation at committee and sub-committee meetings where Arctic-specific issues are discussed.

Canada is one of ten Signatories to the 2018 Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fishing in the Central Arctic Ocean (CAO Agreement). Indigenous representatives from the Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada (ICC) formed an integral part of Canada's delegation to the negotiation of the CAO Agreement.

Canada continues to champion and advocate for the inclusion of Indigenous representatives throughout the ongoing implementation of the Agreement with the nine other Parties. The Canadian negotiation team included Inuit representatives, which led to a successful outcome for Canada.

Coast Guard Arctic Region senior officials are members of the Arctic Coast Guard Forum with participation in the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response sub-working groups. Inuit, First Nation and Métis communities play an active role conducting and participating in SAR and ER exercises and collaborate closely with the Association of Cruise Expeditions, the Arctic and North Atlantic Security and Emergency Preparedness Network and other international bodies.

DFO has been proactive in supporting Indigenous participation in international events and forums on oceans, including during the first UN Ocean Conference, in which ICC participated with financial support from DFO. Indigenous Peoples, and in particular the ICC, have also been consulted in the elaboration of Canada's approach to the ongoing negotiation of a UN Agreement on biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).

The recognition of the critical role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) as stewards of biodiversity and nature is enshrined in the preamble of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD) and in its provisions under article 8(j) wherein Parties have undertaken to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities relevant for the conservation of biological diversity and to promote their wider application with the approval of

knowledge holders and to encourage equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological diversity.

Parties to the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES), a legally binding international agreement, recognize the importance of international wildlife trade in the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Canada has contributed to move this work forward internationally and at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the CITES Parties adopted a Decision to establish a formal working group to consider how to effectively engage IPLCs in the CITES processes. Much has been accomplished both in CITES and the CBD. As part of the work programme on article 8(j) of the CBD of the Parties adopted the Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines and the Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.

Canada places great importance on the participation of Indigenous Peoples in Convention processes and has welcomed the participation of national Indigenous representatives as members of its delegations for the Working Group on Article 8(j) and all CBD and CITES meetings. Canada has reaffirmed the need for an enhanced participation of IPLCs and taken a leadership position in discussions on this issue in the CBD, CITES and other international fora as opportunities arise.

30. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ADDRESS THE URGENT NEED TO ENHANCE SEARCH AND RESCUE AND EMERGENCY PROTECTION INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE ARCTIC, AND ENSURE ARCTIC INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES ARE INVOLVED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THIS INFRASTRUCTURE

The Government of Canada agrees that a changing climate and heightened activity in the region is likely to increase demand for search and rescue in the Canadian Arctic. In the Minister of National Defence's 2019 mandate letter, National Defence is directed to explore options for responding to incidents in the North and the department will take the recommendation into consideration as it undertakes this work.

This recommendation aligns well with the 7th goal of the Framework: "The Canadian Arctic and North and its people are safe, secure and well-defended." The OPP includes specific measures to help protect Arctic waters and allow Canada's territories to be better equipped to protect their marine environment and coastal communities. These include: Safety Equipment and Basic Marine Infrastructure, the Marine Training Program, Northern Low Impact Shipping Corridors, and the Iqaluit National Aerial Surveillance Program Complex.

Additionally, the OPP is putting into place concrete measures to prevent and better respond to marine pollution incidents, to address abandoned, wrecked and hazardous vessels, and to take action to restore coastal habitats and mitigate the impact of day-to-day vessel operations on marine mammals. Through the OPP, Transport Canada,

Coast Guard and other partners are undertaking a number of actions to improve marine safety and enforce responsible shipping practices. These contributions will help protect Canada's waters and marine environment; restore and protect marine ecosystems and habitats; and improve collaboration with Indigenous and coastal communities.

As mentioned in the response to recommendation 25, an interdepartmental senior management oversight committee is in place to maintain oversight of activities; facilitate coordination amongst departments; and provide strategic direction on the OPP.

Coast Guard is committed to a strong search and rescue (SAR) system in Canada, specifically in the Arctic. As such, Coast Guard has made investments to enhance maritime SAR capacity across the Arctic based on region-specific maritime risks and by leveraging local engagement and knowledge, which are the cornerstones of our Risk-Based Analysis of Maritime SAR Delivery (RAMSARD) review process. The RAMSARD review process includes engagement with local residents, stakeholders and partners to assist with risk identification, and the development of mitigation measures for any unacceptable residual risks.

Coast Guard has also demonstrated its commitment to a strong Arctic SAR system by augmenting its Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (Auxiliary) presence in the area. In 2015, the Coast Guard launched a project to assess marine risks and increase the Auxiliary membership in the Arctic. Since 2015, Coast Guard has continued to increase funding to the Auxiliary's Arctic operations, and now provides more than one million dollars a year in dedicated, ongoing Arctic funding to support Auxiliary efforts to enhance their presence and membership across the Arctic.

The Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee Infrastructure working group has identified key priorities for infrastructure in support of SAR and environmental response within Inuit Nunangat, including new small craft harbours for Clyde River and Arctic Bay. Indigenous SAR community boats have been delivered to several Arctic communities, including boat sheds and storage facilities for some, and familiarization training for all recipients. Environmental response caches are located throughout the Arctic and demonstrations of the equipment is ongoing, with additional training planned in the near future.

As demonstrated in Canada's defence policy, *Strong, Secure, Engaged*, the Government of Canada is committed to ensuring the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) has the equipment it needs to conduct SAR operations in the Arctic. The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) intends to modernize and improve its footprint and capabilities in the Arctic. Over the next years, the RCAF will be undertaking numerous activities to improve the quality of SAR in the Arctic. This includes aircraft, communications, weather, radar, and space projects. For example, the ongoing multi-year launch and operation of the Medium Earth Orbit Search and Rescue (MEOSAR) satellite capability is one of these projects. The Search and Rescue Mission Management System (SMMS) Replacement Project will leverage the MEOSAR satellite capability to support CAF and Coast Guard SAR operations.

National Defence operates and maintains real property assets which can be used for SAR operations when required. NORAD Forward Operating Locations in Yellowknife, Iqaluit and Inuvik are readily available when required for operations. National Defence facilities are made available to other government departments to assist in the fulfillment of their respective northern, security, and search and rescue mandates. These facilities include a hangar facility in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, shared with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and facilities in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, which the Coast Guard uses as a search and rescue base. National Defence also partnered with the Government of the Northwest Territories on aerodrome upgrades and improvements to the Inuvik - Mike Zubko - Airport (CYEV).

National Defence is exploring options in response to the Minister's Mandate Letter and will continue to look for partnership opportunities with government departments, territorial governments, and Indigenous communities, including on shared real property assets, alternate energy sources, optimization of supply chain and distribution networks, and fuel storage solutions. Multi-stakeholder involvement will be essential to overcoming challenges associated with regional isolation, limited transportation options, seasonal restrictions, and dispersed population.

The CAF also collaborates with partners on search and rescue operations in the Arctic. Canadian Rangers regularly assist with Ground Search and Rescue operations and have responded numerous times to assist northern and isolated communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the RCAF works closely with the Civilian Aviation Search and Rescue Association (CASARA). The RCAF and CASARA collaborate on several initiatives involving Arctic Indigenous communities, including search and rescue spotter training, navigation training, infrastructure, Remotely Piloted Aircraft for search and rescue, and Small Pack Aerial Response Kits. The RCAF manages several air-droppable, 30-person survival clothing and sleeping kit caches located in Whitehorse, Inuvik, Yellowknife, Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, and Resolute Bay. These kits can be used in any search and rescue or emergency management situation, as required.

In response to the Minister's Mandate Letter, National Defence is exploring options to enhance continental defence capabilities and modernize NORAD to bolster Canada's domestic defence capabilities. As National Defence continues its work, we are committed to engaging in honest, open and ongoing dialogue with Indigenous communities and stakeholders to identify shared priorities. We will also continue to engage federal partners.

CONCLUSION

The Government of Canada is committed to working with Canada's Arctic and northern residents to address the persistent challenges and harness the tremendous opportunities that exist in the region. The Government thanks the Committee for their

interest and recommendations, and trusts that this response demonstrates the Government's commitment to addressing the Committee's recommendations.