



## ArcticNet: Coming together in the study of a changing Canadian Arctic

The Arctic is changing under the double pressure of climate warming and industrialization. Climate change and modernization in the Arctic already have tremendous environmental, socio-economic and strategic consequences for communities, northern governances, and for Canada. Summer sea-ice melt threatens the unique ecosystems of the Arctic Ocean, opens new sea lanes, and provides access to untapped oil and gas reserves and minerals. Melting permafrost transforms the tundra and destabilizes roads, airstrips and houses. Travel to traditional fishing and hunting grounds is increasingly difficult for Inuit who are ever more dependent on southern goods, including tobacco and industrial food that bring cancer, diabetes, obesity and other health issues. Industrialization and modernization provide economic opportunities, but pressure the environment, the education system, and the culture of Northerners.

The Network of Centres of Excellence ArcticNet contributes to answer the many strategic questions raised by the on-going mutation of the Canadian Arctic. During its first cycle of funding (2004-2011), ArcticNet has transformed arctic research in Canada. It has brought together the best arctic specialists and their international collaborators to inform policies and decisions related to the North. Over 145 ArcticNet researchers and 580 graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research associates and technicians from 30 Canadian universities, 8 federal and 11 provincial departments and agencies collaborate on 36 research projects with over 100 partner organizations from 15 countries.

Over the next funding cycle (2011-2018), ArcticNet will deliver some of the science base of Canada's new Northern Strategy. In addition to 22 renewed research projects and two new Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC), the Network will pursue the implementation of 12 new projects focusing on Inuit health, Inuit education and northern socio-economy. Each of these 36 projects addresses key aspects of the four pillars of Canada's Northern Strategy: Sovereignty, Economic and Social Development, Environmental Protection, and Governance.



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