

**Russia and Canada federal and subnational cooperation
in the Arctic:
Infrastructure, Economic Opportunity & Wellbeing of Northerners**
International Conference
April 6–7, 2021

(hybrid format)

Draft program

April 6, 2021 (Day 1)

16.00–16.30 p.m. Moscow time (UTC+3:00, EST-7:00)

Opening ceremony. Welcoming remarks.

Moderator – Prof. Yury Akimov, Director of Canadian Studies Center, St. Petersburg State University

- Representative of SPbSU administration (Rector Nikolay Kropachev or Vice-Rector Sergey Andryushin)
- Alexander Darchiey, Head of the North American Department, Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Vladimir Proskuryakov, Minister-Counsellor & Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of the Russian Federation
- Ambassador Alison LeClaire, Embassy of Canada to Russia
- German Shirokov, Chairman, Committee for the Arctic Affairs, Government of St. Petersburg

16.30–18.00

Plenary session. Canadian and Russian Arctic Strategies and Priorities.

Moderator – Prof. Piotr Dutkiewicz, Carleton University, Canada.

Objective – Speakers will outline the focus and priorities of national Arctic development strategies, their international and regional dimensions, and share views on prospects for greater bilateral collaboration at federal and sub-national levels.

Participants:

- Ambassador Nikolay Korchunov, Ambassador-at-Large for the Arctic at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Senior Arctic Official of the Russian Federation. *Priorities for the Russian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council (8 min)*

- Ambassador **David Sproule**, Senior Arctic Official & Director General, Polar, Eurasian and European Affairs, Global Affairs Canada. *International Dimensions of Arctic Cooperation from the Canadian perspective (8 min)*
- **Olga Smirnova**, Advisor to Minister, Ministry for the Development of the Far East & Arctic. *The Arctic Strategy of the Russian Federation: goals and priorities*
- **Wayne Walsh**, Director General, Northern Strategic Policy Branch, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. *Canada's Arctic and Northern Policy Framework.*
- **Varvara Burtseva**, Chairman, Youth Council, St. Petersburg Branch, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North. *The Role of Young Indigenous people in Sustainable Development of the Arctic*
- **Lisa Koperqualuk**, Vice President, International Affairs, Inuit Circumpolar Council.

Discussion

Questions & Answers (live and in the Chatbox)

*Assistant chat moderator – Prof. **Alexander Sergunin**, St. Petersburg State University and MGIMO*

18.15-20.15 – Session 1

Round table. Air and Road Transportation Challenges, and Permafrost-oriented technologies in the Arctic regions of Canada and Russia: Prospects for Cooperation.

Moderator – **Ambassador Anton Vassiliev**, former Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Iceland, and former Senior Arctic Official of the Russian Federation

Objective - Speakers will discuss the key challenges in air and road transportation logistics, and permafrost's adaptation facing their region, and provide examples of ongoing or proposed projects addressing these challenges. Subsequent discussion will focus on concrete prospects for further dialogue and cooperation.

Speakers:

- **Elena Shumilova**, Senator from the Komi Republic
- **Paul Murchison**, Executive Director, Transportation Engineering Branch, Government of Yukon
- **Prof. Vitaly Troshin**, Head of the Center for Research of Artificial Environment in Extreme Conditions, Moscow Architectural Institute, Chairman of the Commissions on the problems of the Arctic, Antarctic and the North of the

International Academy of Architecture and the Union of Architects of St. Petersburg. *Vorkuta – a city on a sluggish permafrost.*

– Prof. Christopher Burn, Chancellor’s Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University. *New priorities for permafrost research to enhance sustainability of Arctic infrastructure.*

– Yulia Logacheva, “Airports of Krasnoyarsk”, General director. *Practical experience in the rapid restoration of airfield infrastructure in the Arctic and the Far North*

– Prof. Michel Allard, Professor Emeritus. Center of Northern Studies (CEN), University of Laval. *Permafrost, Inuit communities and airports.*

– Konstantin Barabash, International Sales Director (Africa/Middle East/Russia/CIS/Mongolia), Viking Air Ltd.

Discussion

Questions & Answers (live and in the Chatbox)

Assistant chat moderator – Prof. Stanislav Tkachenko, Department of European Studies, St. Petersburg State University

April 7, 2021 (Day 2)

16.00–18.00 – Session 2

Round table. Finding solutions to the challenges of meaningful employment, and access to education.

Moderator – Vladimir Vassiliev, Executive Director of the Northern Forum.

Mr. Vassiliev shares the experience of the Northern Forum in this field.

The Northern Forum currently carries out two projects related to the topic – “International Arctic School”, “International Arctic Center for Culture and Arts” and “Schools partnership”.

Objective - Speakers will discuss the key challenges with creating meaningful employment and access to education facing their region, and provide examples of ongoing or proposed projects addressing these challenges. Subsequent discussion will focus on concrete prospects for further dialogue and cooperation.

Speakers:

– Julie Boucher, Director, Conservation Partnerships, Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program, Environment and Climate Change Canada. *Inuit Guardians – Supporting on-the-ground, community-based stewardship initiatives*

- **Mikhail Pogodaev**, Deputy Minister on the Arctic Development and Northern Peoples Development, RSY. *Canada – Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) cooperation in the field of science and education.*
- **David Korgak**, Manager of Indigenous Advocacy Services, Representative for Children and Youth, Government of Nunavut. *Employment and Education among Nunavut Inuit*
- **Gavril Kirillin**, Minister for External affairs, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)
- **Jim Howden**, Director, Office of First Nations and Inuit Education, McGill University
- **Prof. Igor Nabok**, Director, Institute of the Northern Peoples, Herzen Russian Pedagogical University.
- **Kaviq Kaluraq**, Instructor, Nunavut Teacher Education Program Nunavut Arctic College.
- **Vivien Carli**, Program Director, North, Gordon Foundation. *Learning about The Gordon Foundation*
- **Stanislav Borodyuk**, Vice-President, Kinross Gold

Discussion

Questions & Answers (live and in the Chatbox)

*Assistant chat moderator - **Olga Samovarova**, Director, Educational Center “Panacea”.*

18.15-20.15 – Session 3

Round table. Finding solutions to the challenges of food security and health in the Arctic regions of Russia and Canada.

Moderator – Dr. Melita Vujnovic, WHO Representative Russia

Objective - Speakers will discuss the key challenges with food security and access to health services facing their region, and provide examples of ongoing or proposed projects addressing these challenges. Subsequent discussion will focus on concrete prospects for further dialogue and cooperation.

Speakers:

- **Wayne Walsh**, Director General, Northern Strategic Policy Branch, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- **Konstantin Dolgov**, Senator from Murmansk region

- **Prof. David Natcher**, Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Saskatchewan, Canadian Representative to the Social, Economic, Cultural Export Group (SECEG), Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), Arctic Council
- **Prof. Alexey Zavarzin**, Professor, Deputy Director, Vavilov All-Russian Institute of Plant Genetic Resources.
- **Prof. Matthew Little**, Assistant Professor, School of Public Health and Social Policy, Faculty of Human and Social Development, University of Victoria
- **Prof. Maxim Chashchin**, Professor, Head of the Research Laboratory of Arctic Medicine at Mechnikov State Medical University, Arctic Human Health Expert Group) рабочей группы по устойчивому развитию (SDWG). *Topical issues of cooperation between Russia and Canada in the Arctic in the field of telemedicine technologies*
- **Catharyn Andersen**, Special Advisor to the President on Aboriginal Affairs, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Discussion

Questions & Answers (live and in the Chatbox)

Assistant chat moderator – Kristina Minkova, Deputy Director, Canadian Studies Center, St. Petersburg State University.

Concluding remarks. **Prof. Yury Akimov**, Professor, Director, Canadian Studies Center, St. Petersburg State University