

28 – 30 May 2008

The Canadian Arctic Summit at the University of Alberta

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



The Arctic regions are receiving a great deal of attention.

The economic potential of natural resources in the circumpolar region will see previously unknown or inaccessible reserves of oil and natural gas, diamonds and other minerals being developed. What is the nature of the institutions and regulations governing this development?

Rapid climate change is reshaping the physical, biological and human environments. The Arctic Ocean will be largely ice-free in summer within the next two decades, and on land, permafrost is melting, with significant implications for wildlife, people, transportation and economic development. What adaptations and changes are necessary in anticipation of a much warmer Arctic?

Political boundaries are also being redrawn. The Arctic Ocean seabed is being mapped in a race to submit territorial claims to the UNCLOS. And in Canada, governments have settled land claims and are in the process

of devolving more responsibilities to northern governments. How will Arctic nations and especially residents of the North benefit from this renewed interest and development?

The answers to these questions are not simple, and require an interdisciplinary and international approach.

As part of a year-long celebration of the centenary at the University of Alberta, the School of Energy and the Environment (SEE) would like to invite you to participate in its signature event – the Canadian Arctic Summit.

Over three days, invited experts in northern development, economics, politics, environmental change, northern culture, technology and innovation will lead panels in a discussion of these issues. Participants, and especially students, are invited to submit posters for display during the meetings.

The University of Alberta marks its centenary in 2008 with a year-long reflection and celebration of the teaching and research achievements that have transformed lives in Alberta and around the world. Since forty-five young men and women began classes in Edmonton at a place founded for “the uplifting of the whole people,” the University of Alberta has grown into one of the top 100 global research institutions, with 36,000 students on five campuses and 210,000 alumni around the world.

SESSIONS:

Session 1:

Political Evolution in the Arctic

Session 2:

Economic Development: Opportunity, Responsibility and Regulation

Session 3:

Climate Change and the Environment

Session 4:

Northern Communities and Residents

Session 5:

Cold Climate Technology and Innovation