
Public Forum

Canada and the Arctic: A Panel Discussion on Arctic Sovereignty

Panelists:

Dr. Michael Byers, University of British Columbia

Martin Shadwick, York University

Representatives from the Government of Canada

The pressures of environmental change and increasing economic activity in the North have raised numerous issues around sovereignty and governance in the Arctic. This has led to debates amongst states, multinational corporations, and Northern communities about how this region should be managed. Canada's position has been that it has sovereignty over the North West Passage and it is investing heavily in military resources to demonstrate this control. What does this mean for international law, and is it the best way to govern the North?

The York Centre for International and Security Studies and the Canadian International Council are hosting a panel discussion of these important issues. The discussion will begin with a talk by Dr. Michael Byers from the University of British Columbia, one of Canada's leading experts on Arctic sovereignty and international law. Responding to Dr. Byers will be Martin Shadwick, of York University, a foremost scholar of Canada's defence and security policy, together with representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Department of National Defence.

This is an important debate that will have a long lasting impact on Canada's place in the world. The public panel discussion, followed by a question and answer session, will allow you to learn what is at stake in the debate over Arctic sovereignty.

**Thursday, 6 March 2008
7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Free Admission
Marriott Bloor-Yorkville
90 Bloor Street East, Toronto**

YCISS is a Research Centre at York University and a Department of National Defence Security and Defence Forum Centre of Excellence taking an expansive view of the nature of security in the contemporary world.

The CIC is a non-partisan, nationwide council established to strengthen Canada's role in international affairs. It aims to advance research and dialogue on international affairs issues by supporting a Canadian foreign policy network that crosses academic disciplines, policy areas, and economic sectors.

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