

Arctic Sovereignty Enforcement Act

An Act to enforce Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

SHORT TITLE

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the *Arctic Sovereignty Enforcement Act*.

Definitions

1. The “Arctic” is defined as the sovereign territories of Canada farther North than the township of Naujaat (formerly Repulse Bay) extending to the Queen Elizabeth islands archipelago and ending at its borders with the Kingdom of Denmark in Greenland in the east and ending at the land border between Canada and the State of Alaska in the west.
2. The “Northwest Passages” are defined as the various waterways between the islands of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.
3. “Internal waters” are defined as archipelagic internal waters according to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Arctic Defence

1. The Canadian government affirms that the Northwest Passages are considered Canadian Internal Waters. The Canadian government therefore has the right to exercise the same right of sovereignty as it does on the mainland.
2. Innocent passage must be provided along certain sea lanes designated by the Canadian government.
3. An “Arctic Passage Authority” is hereby established, under the joint administration of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans the Department of National Defence.. The Arctic Passage Authority:
 - a. Is tasked with analyzing the Northwest Passages for possible navigable passages connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
 - i. If any such passages are available, at least one such passage must be declared the official navigable passage for foreign

vessels. Icebreakers are to be used where possible to maintain this passage.

- ii. Foreign vessels must follow the official navigable passage, according to the right of innocent passage.
- b. Has at its disposal both the Canadian Coast Guard and the Royal Canadian Navy as limited by the DFO and DND.

Coming Into Force

1. This Act shall come into force within 30 days of receiving Royal Assent.