

**OSCE SPEECH REGARDING THE ARCTIC REGION DRAFT RESOLUTION
DELIVERED JULY 4, 2022 AT THE OSCE CONFERENCE IN BIRMINGHAM
The Hon. Patricia Bovey, Canadian Senator**

Thank you, and I thank Ms. Haraldsdóttir for this resolution on the Arctic Region. The Arctic Region is of great importance and concern for Canada. 40% of our land mass is bordered by the Arctic Ocean.

The principles of this Resolution will positively affect the livelihoods of Canada's Arctic people, including food security and our physical security. Canada's Arctic and Northern Framework, and the Senate of Canada's Special Arctic Report: *Northern Lights: A Wake-Up Call for the Future of Canada*, underline the need to strengthen the rules-based international order in the Arctic and the Arctic's institutions. Indigenous participation in all discussions and forums is critical.

Climate change at more than twice the global rate, the melting of permafrost, and the diminishing of ice in the Arctic Ocean and Northwest Passage are changing the dynamics of shipping and security.

With the Russian invasion of Ukraine the security of Arctic is an increasing concern. Russia has stated its intention to deter foreign aggression in the Arctic and is increasing their armed forces. Our three Northern Territories have all voiced their very real concern regarding Arctic sovereignty, their vulnerability and the changing Arctic order. The UN Convention of the Law of the Sea is critical.

OSCEPA cannot deny or ignore these changes. We must maintain vigilance of the Arctic and monitor multilateral engagement, military capabilities, resources and economic development. All this affects Canada and other nations bordering the Arctic Ocean, their peoples and Indigenous sovereignty.

I congratulate Iceland, and I will be voting for this Resolution on the Arctic Region, and for the continuance of the UN's Convention of the Law of the Sea. Canada is a signatory of this Convention. It is of great importance for our Northern Coast, as it is for our Eastern and Western coasts.

Thank you!