

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NWT MP TO ATTEND INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC OCEAN CONFERENCE

OTTAWA – NDP Arctic Sovereignty Critic Dennis Bevington (Western Arctic) will be part of the Canadian delegation to the Arctic Ocean Conference in Ilulissat, Greenland, 27 - 29 May 2008.

Organized by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Greenland Home Rule Government the conference aims to enhance cooperation among the Arctic States concerning the management of the Arctic Ocean. A Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs press release states: "The present effects of climate change and further perspectives of such changes pose new opportunities and challenges in the region, which must be handled in ways that ensure sustainable development and the inclusion of local populations."

"The Canadian Arctic is seeing increased activity due to ease of access caused by the melting of the sea ice caused by climate change," said Bevington. "We are also seeing increased challenges to Canada's sovereignty over the Arctic waters. Without sovereignty Canadian environmental protection laws for this sensitive area will not be enforceable."

Other nations attending the conference are: the United States of America, the Kingdom of Norway and the Russian Federation.

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