

Nordic Perspectives on Climate Change and Security: Insights from Transatlantic Leaders



This document summarizes the panel discussion that took place at the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. February 25th, 2025.

Key messages

Held on February 25 at the University of Prince Edward Island, the panel discussion brought together ambassadors from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden as part of their official tour of Canadian territory. Organized by UPEI's Island Studies and Political Science/Climate Change departments, the event featured a moderated discussion followed by questions from faculty and students. The session provided insights into Nordic perspectives on global issues and emphasized collaborative efforts with Canada.

- Nordic countries emphasized joint efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, investing in renewable energy and reducing dependence on fossil fuels, while recognizing the need for global-scale cooperation to make these efforts impactful.
- The Russia-Ukraine war, rising authoritarianism, and global instability (including concerns about Gaza and U.S. political shifts) were central to discussions. Stronger EU defense, Nordic solidarity, and deeper Canada-Nordic cooperation were encouraged.
- The U.S. interest in buying Greenland was met with unified rejection by Nordic nations, affirming sovereignty and strategic stability in the Arctic.
- Ambassadors promoted increased academic collaboration, student exchange, and research partnerships between Nordic countries and Canada as essential to long-term diplomatic and scientific growth.

Further information

Event:

<https://www.upei.ca/communications/news/2025/03/nordic-ambassadors-visit-upei-february-25>

Partnership between Nordic countries and Canada:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2024/09/joint-statement-following-the-strategic-dialogue-between-canada-kingdom-of-denmark-finland-iceland-norway-and-sweden.html>

Acknowledgement

This initiative is an assignment in the UPEI course IST-6010 Island Studies: Themes and Perspectives.

Impacts for island communities

The panel discussion underscored the strategic, environmental, and diplomatic importance of island communities, particularly in the Arctic and North Atlantic regions. It emphasized how island territories are not only at the forefront of climate change but also pivotal players in global geopolitics, sustainability, and international cooperation. For Island Studies students, this dialogue offered a compelling framework to explore how islands can lead in innovation, resilience and diplomacy.

- Ongoing international efforts to combat climate change directly benefit island and coastal territories, which are especially vulnerable to environmental shifts.
- Arctic islands like Greenland, Iceland, and Svalbard are central to global debates on sovereignty, resource access, and security—what happens in the Arctic affects the entire planet.
- Strengthening diplomatic alliances based on common values enables island nations to collaborate on defense, sustainability and economic development.
- Islands can serve as models for green energy, eco-tourism, and research, offering scalable solutions to global environmental challenges.
- Students are encouraged to pursue Nordic-Canada exchange programs.

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