

# The Changing Arctic: International Cooperation and Development

October 27, 2011: University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs

## Welcome & Keynote Address

1:00-2:00pm

### *Speakers:*

**Martin Loken**, Consul General, Consulate General of Canada and **Will Steger**, Arctic Explorer/Founder, Will Steger Foundation

*Welcome Message:* U.S. Senator **Amy Klobuchar**

*Keynote Address:* **Whitney Lackenbauer**, University of Waterloo

## International Cooperation and Diplomacy

2:00-3:15pm

### *Topics*

- Defense and security: emergency preparedness, search and rescue, border protection
- Diplomacy/Role of the Arctic Council (Canada to chair in 2013, U.S. to chair in 2015)
- Boundary and continental shelf recognition issues

### *Speakers*

**Elizabeth Elliot-Meisel**, Creighton University; **Brigadier General Robert Chekan**, Deputy Director of the Strategy, Policy and Plans Directorate, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD); **Pontus Melander**, Minister Counselor, Embassy of Sweden and **Commander Mary Ellen Durley**, Commanding Officer of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter, *Alder*

*Moderator:* **Raymond (Bud) Duvall**, University of Minnesota, Chair of Political Science Department



## Economic and Social Development

3:15-4:15pm

### *Topics*

- Potential economic opportunities for Minnesota
- Economic and social impact of the changing Arctic
- Peoples of the North/Human Dimension

### *Speakers*

**Michael Langley**, Greater MSP - Minneapolis Saint Paul Regional Economic Development Partnership; **Timothy Pasch**, University of North Dakota and **Greg Poelzer**, University of Saskatchewan

*Moderator:* **Steve Kelley**, University of Minnesota, Director of the Center for Science, Technology, and Public Policy

## Environment, Science and Education

4:30-5:45pm

### *Topics*

- Climate change in the environment, impact to infrastructure and ecosystems
- Adventure – the role of explorers in conservation
- Science and academic research on the Arctic

### *Speakers*

**Will Steger**, Arctic Explorer/Founder, Will Steger Foundation; **Peter Snyder**, University of Minnesota; Arctic climate systems and **Danielle Labonté**, Energy and Environment Institute, Queen's University School of Policy Studies

*Moderator:* **Aaron Doering**, University of Minnesota, Department of Curriculum and Instruction



## Closing Remarks

5:45-6:00pm

# Speaker Biographies



**Brigadier General Robert J. Chekan, Deputy Director of the Strategy, Policy and Plans Directorate, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).** Among his assignments, the General has commanded and served in operations and staff appointments in Canada and Europe as part of Canada's contribution to

NATO, and in the United States as part of Canada's participation in NORAD. General Chekan is a distinguished graduate of the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College, an Ancien of the NATO Staff College in Rome, and a graduate of the National Security Studies Course.

## Moderator



**Dr. Aaron Doering, Associate Professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Bonnie Westby Huebner Endowed Chair in Education and Technology, Co-Director of the Learning Technologies Media Lab, University of Minnesota.** Doering directs numerous research

and development grants related to design and development, Arctic and sustainability education, and online learning. Doering's latest research focuses on the connection between education and sustainability on every continent of the world; the design and impact of informal learning, specifically adventure learning, on motivation and learning; and how to design and develop online courses that provide transformational experiences.

## Moderator



**Raymond Duvall, Morse-Alumni Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota.** His publications include *Power in Global Governance* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), edited with Michael Barnett, and *Cultures of Insecurity: States, Communities and the Production of Danger* (University of Minnesota Press, 1999), edited with Jutta Weldes, Mark Laffey and Hugh Gusterson, as well as articles in scholarly journals, most recently *International Organization* (2005-06), *Millennium* (2007), *Review of International Studies* (2008), and *Political Theory* (2008).

His teaching and research focus on facets of critical international relations theory.



**Commander Mary Ellen Josephine Durley, Commanding Officer of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter, Alder.** Commander Durley is a 1995 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and she holds a Master's of Public and International Affairs from Virginia Polytechnic State University. CDR Durley has served on 5 cutters during the past 16 years:

USCGC's ACACIA, JUNIPER, SASSAFRAS, THUNDER BAY, and her current assignment as Commanding Officer USCGC ALDER in Duluth, MN. Her assignments ashore include serving as an instructor at the USCG Leadership Development Center, Chief, Nautical Science Section at Officer Candidate School, and Deputy Division Chief of the USCG International Training Division.



**Elizabeth Elliot-Meisel, Chair, Department of History, Creighton University.** Elliot-Meisel teaches U.S. Foreign Policy, U.S.-Canadian Relations, U.S. Constitutional History, the American History survey 1877-present, and the Western Civilization survey at Creighton University. Her dissertation and area of research is Canadian-American

relations in the Arctic, specifically in the WWII and Cold War eras. She is especially interested in the diplomatic and military relationship between the two nations as it relates to the Arctic and continental security.

## Moderator



**Steve Kelly, Director, Center for Science, Technology, and Public Policy, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota.** Kelley served in the Minnesota Senate from January 1997 through December 2006 and the Minnesota House of Representatives from January 1993 through December 1996. Aside from his public

service, Kelley has been a lawyer practicing commercial litigation at the Minneapolis firm of Mackall, Crounse, and Moore since 1983. Kelley received his B.A. from Williams College graduating cum laude in 1975 and later earned his J.D. from the Columbia University School of Law in 1978.



**Danielle Labonté, Fellow, Circumpolar Affairs, Queen's University, Kingston Ontario.** Danielle Labonté is currently on a two-year assignment as a Fellow at Queen's University where she is focusing on Circumpolar Affairs, with a focus on capacity-building. From 2007 to August 2011, Labonté had been Director General, Northern

Policy and Science Integration Branch at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. Some of her key projects included International Polar Year, plans for Canada's High Arctic Research Station, and the delivery of Canada's Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund. Labonté has been a Canadian federal official for nearly thirty years and has held positions in a wide array of policy/program fields.

## Keynote



**Whitney Lackenbauer, Chair, Department of History, University of Waterloo.** Lackenbauer, Ph.D., is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of History at St. Jerome's University (University of Waterloo), Waterloo, Ontario. He is also a fellow with the Canadian Defence & Foreign Affairs Institute, the Arctic Institute of North

America, and the Wilfrid Laurier Centre for Military and Strategic Disarmament Studies. His recent published work explores the themes of Arctic sovereignty, Aboriginal peoples, and the Canadian military's role in the Arctic region.



**Michael Langley, CEO, Minneapolis Saint Paul Regional Development Partnership.** Langley is a veteran economic development leader who has led regional economic development organizations in Florida and Pennsylvania, and has most recently been the president of an economic development consulting practice with offices in Pittsburgh, Washington D.C., and Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. It is in this capacity that Langley served as a consultant to the Itasca Project, a group of 60 Minnesota CEOs and elected officials that identified the need to market to prospective employers in a cohesive way on a national and global scale. Previously, Michael had a successful career with Westinghouse Electric Corporation, rising to the senior executive ranks as CEO of a Westinghouse subsidiary.



**Martin Loken, Consul General of Canada, Minneapolis.** Loken is Canada's senior diplomatic representative responsible for the Upper Midwest states of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. As Consul General he leads a team of Minneapolis-based professionals working to deepen cross-border commercial ties, to engage decision-makers and citizens on a range of issues of interest to both countries and to help Canadians living and travelling in the region. A member of Canada's Foreign Service since 1990, he has represented Canada overseas in Prague and Geneva, and has held several positions in Ottawa, including as a senior trade negotiator. He holds degrees in Systems Design Engineering and Arts from the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario.



**Pontus Melander, Minister-Counselor, Embassy of Sweden to the United States (Head of Political Section).** Previously, Melander served as the Ambassador and Deputy Director, Military Intelligence & Security Directorate (MUST), Swedish Armed Forces from 2008-10. Over the years, Melander has held various positions with Sweden's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Ambassador and Energy Coordinator, Minister's Office (2007-08). From 2001-05 he served as a Counselor to the Embassy of Sweden to Canada (Deputy Head of Mission), Ottawa. Melander received higher management training in the Swedish Armed Forces and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He received his Master of Science in politics, economy and international law at the University of Lund.



**Dr. Timothy Pasch, Assistant Professor, University of North Dakota.** Pasch completed his doctorate in Communication at the University of Washington, Seattle, in 2008. His dissertation fieldwork took place in Inukjuaq, Nunavik, where he studied Arctic virtual communities and social networks. His manuscript proposed governmental policy changes designed to empower language preservation and security for Inuit on the Arctic Web. His 2010 paper published by Études/Inuit/Studies at Laval University focuses on the importance of optimizing Arctic social networks for the preservation of Inuktitut and syllabics. He has been interviewed by Nunatsiaq News regarding his work with iPad optimization for Inuktitut, and cited in a 2011 report commissioned by Human Resources Canada, Social Media as a Tool for Inclusion.



**Dr. Greg Poelzer, Associate Professor of Political Studies, Director, International Center for Northern Governance and Development (ICNGD), University of Saskatchewan.** Poelzer is the Director of the ICNGD and an associate member of the School of Public Policy and the School of the Environment and Sustainability. He has just completed a five year term as the inaugural Dean of Undergraduate Studies at the University of the Arctic, a consortium of 110 universities, colleges, Indigenous organizations, and NGOs. He also leads the University of the Arctic's international Northern Governance Thematic Network. His research focuses on comparative politics and policy as it relates to Northern regions and to Aboriginal-state relations.



**Will Steger, Explorer, Educator, Environmentalist, Will Steger Foundation.** Steger is a recognized authority for the Polar Regions, including their environmental issues, and is an eyewitness to the effects of global warming. He has spent more than 45 years traveling through the Arctic regions, advocating for the Earth's preservation and advising about permanent solutions to our climate crisis. While most known for his legendary polar expeditions, Steger has continued his commitment to education and exploration through the Will Steger Foundation.



**Dr. Peter Snyder, Assistant Professor, Department of Soil, Water, and Climate, University of Minnesota.** Snyder is an assistant professor of atmospheric science. His research involves the physics of the atmosphere and the coupled land-atmosphere system. Through both fieldwork and numerical modeling of the Arctic environment, he has investigated how near-term climate change in the Arctic may be considerably underestimated because of subtle, yet important, processes not represented in global climate models.



# Understanding the Changing Arctic

Minnesotans may sometimes feel they're at the northern edge of the world. But look north, way north, and you'll see a dynamic region that will be increasingly important to the world in the decades to come.

Who owns the vast resources beneath the Arctic Ocean? What's the role of international cooperation and diplomacy in the far north? How will climate change and decreasing sea ice impact arctic waterways, infrastructure and ecosystems? How will changes and development in the Arctic impact Minnesota?

The changes in the Arctic are relevant right here in the "North Star" state, where there's a rich tradition of polar exploration, as well as Arctic scientific and educational work. Canada and the United States have long collaborated in the Arctic as neighbours and friends. In the harsh environment of the Arctic, the two nations break ice for each other, fight forest fires, perform search and rescue, build transportation and technological infrastructure, and maintain a sophisticated system of early warning to reinforce continental security.

Minnesotans are already contributing to U.S., Canadian and broader international efforts to address the challenges and opportunities of the changing Arctic. To build further understanding of these critical issues, the Will Steger Foundation and the Consulate General of Canada in Minneapolis are pleased to partner with the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs and the Institute on the Environment to bring a first-of-its-kind discussion of the changing Arctic to the Twin Cities. We see this event as the beginning of a dialogue and a springboard for new ideas, partnerships and opportunities involving Minnesotans, Canadians and the Arctic. We hope you find today's discussion inspiring.

*Martin Loken and Will Steger*

**Canada**

**WILL STEGER**  
FOUNDATION 

INSTITUTE ON THE  
**ENVIRONMENT**

HUMPHREY SCHOOL  
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>**

For conference proceedings visit: [www.willstegerfoundation.org/changingarctic](http://www.willstegerfoundation.org/changingarctic)

