

Abstract

This bachelor thesis “Inuit and Canada’s Northern Strategy” deals with the relationship between the Canadian Federal Government and the Inuit, especially in the period of 2006-2015, when the conservative Stephen Harper held the post of Canadian Prime Minister. In 2007 the document Canada’s Northern Strategy was published, introducing a plan of active arctic development, primarily based on increased Canadian military presence and economic activities. The importance of the Inuit, real inhabitants of the Arctic, was confirmed in this document by mentioning the Inuit’s historical presence in the Arctic as a key argument of Canada’s Arctic claims. Despite this fact, a real change of policy, that could help solve the current social crisis of the Inuit community, did not come and the Inuit are still rarely consulted where Canadian arctic initiatives are concerned. The aim of this thesis is, with the help of two main documents: Canada’s Northern Strategy and the Inuit Action Plan, to analyse the priorities and demands of the Inuit and the Canadian government, in order to find out if a common goal exists and what the reason is behind the misunderstanding and failed communication between these two parties, which prevents the Inuit social crisis from being solved and the region from true prosperity. The thesis follows a hypothesis, that the main problem lies in different perspectives of the Arctic, embraced by each party. The Government of Canada sees the Arctic as a remote, resourceful frontier while the Inuit view it as their homeland.