
News Release Communiqué

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Minister Aglukkaq Announces 2014 Search for Franklin Expedition

Harper Government leads an expanded team of partners to discover the fate of Sir John Franklin's lost Arctic expedition

June 19, 2014

Ottawa, Ontario

Government of Canada

This summer, the Government of Canada and an unprecedented number of organizations from the public, private and non-profit sectors will partner together, using state-of-the-art technology, to locate the historic ships of the ill-fated 1845 Franklin Expedition.

The 2014 Franklin Expedition will also have the added benefit of furthering our knowledge in a number of priority areas, including through the collection of important scientific information about Canada's most remote region.

The story of the North is the story of Canada. This year's expedition in the Victoria Strait supports the Government's 2013 Speech from the Throne commitment to tell this story and work with renewed determination and an expanded team of partners to discover the fate of Sir John Franklin's lost Arctic expedition.

Through the pursuit of common interests in the Arctic, the multi-partner collaboration will advance goals in the following key areas:

- **Story of Canada:** Canadians are northern people and our history is intrinsically tied to being part of a northern country. In order to tell that story for Canada's 150th year, the Government is continuing its efforts to solve one of the most enduring mysteries of our past.
- **Safety and security:** A vast and remote region with a harsh climate, Canada's Arctic is both hazardous and fragile. Through seabed mapping and other research, this summer's expedition will contribute to making Canada's Arctic both safer and more secure.
- **Arctic research and technology:** Canada continues to showcase its innovation and develop the tools, techniques and capacity needed to gather, interpret and apply knowledge about the Arctic.
- **Supporting Arctic communities:** Supporting our Arctic communities requires broad collaboration. Many of this summer's projects will celebrate northern history and culture, and contribute to the sustainability of northern communities.

Quick Facts

- Government partners for the 2014 Victoria Strait expedition include Parks Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard, the Royal Canadian Navy, Defence Research & Development Canada (DRDC) (an agency of the Department of National Defence), Environment Canada, and the Canadian Space Agency, as well as the Governments of Nunavut and Great Britain.

- Private and non-profit partners include the Arctic Research Foundation, the Royal Canadian Geographical Society who additionally brings in The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, Shell Canada and One Ocean Expeditions as partners.
- There will be a record number of ships (4) supporting the 2014 Victoria Strait Expedition: CCGS *Sir Wilfrid Laurier* (Canadian Coast Guard), HMCS *Kingston* (Royal Canadian Navy), research vessel *Martin Bergmann* (Arctic Research Foundation) and *One Ocean Voyager* (One Ocean Expeditions), as well as a number of smaller platform vessels.
- Some of the leading technologies to be employed will include the Canadian Space Agency's RADARSAT-2 satellite imagery, high resolution multi-beam and side-scan sonar, Parks Canada's remotely operated underwater vehicle, and DRDC's state-of-the-art autonomous underwater vehicle, which was developed in collaboration with private-sector partners.
- This year marks 50 years of outstanding accomplishments in underwater archaeology at Parks Canada.
- Since 2008, over 1,200 km² of the Arctic seabed, which is equivalent to over 2,200 football fields, has been newly surveyed and charted in the search for the Franklin ships.
- In 2012, the Canadian Hydrographic Service, with the support of the Canadian Coast Guard, completed new surveys of a route farther south into Alexandra Strait, constituting an alternate route around King William Island and has improved marine safety, search and rescue response time, and fuel economization.

Quotes

"Our Government has made the North a priority. Through exploration and research in Canada's Arctic, we can understand our past and secure our future. The 2014 search for the Franklin ships not only provides the greatest opportunity yet for finding the historic Franklin vessels, it will contribute significantly to our Government's Northern Strategy. Information gathered on this expedition will provide benefits to Canadians in the areas of Arctic sovereignty, marine safety, environmental protection, science and technology, history and culture."

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for Parks Canada

Related Products

Backgrounder – Victoria Strait Expedition
Backgrounder – Partners

Associated Links

Check out Parks Canada on Twitter at @PCArchaeology for daily updates throughout the survey, and Parks Canada's **Media Room** at www.parkscanada.gc.ca for additional backgrounders

Canada's Northern Strategy
<http://www.northernstrategy.gc.ca/sov/cae-eng.asp>

Canadian Arctic Expedition 1913, 1918 Centennial Expedition
<http://canadianarcticexpedition.com/>

Contacts

Office of the Minister of the Environment
819-997-1441

Media Relations
Parks Canada
855-862-1812
www.twitter.com/parkscanada