AY 2016

year in review
Heather Exner-Pirot & Joël Plouffe

2015

16th – The third annual Arctic Circle 2015 event was held in Reykjavik, Iceland. The 2015 Arctic Yearbook is launched at the Embassy of the United States in Iceland. AY2015 is themed Arctic Governance & Governing.

23rd – The 8-state Arctic Coast Guard Forum was established at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

2016

19th – The Inuit Circumpolar Council initiates the Pikialaorsuaq Commission to study the North Water Polynya and explore locally driven management options, including a travel corridor. In September they concluded their consultation in Inuit communities and will now make recommendations to their respective national governments.

20th – NASA and the NOAA determine that Earth’s 2015 surface temperatures were the warmest since modern record keeping began in 1880.

25th – The Indigenous Peoples Secretariat relocates to Tromsø, Norway.

Heather Exner-Pirot and Joël Plouffe are the Managing Editors of the Arctic Yearbook.
2016

February

20th – The **Arctic Human Development Report II** (AHDRII) is published on the tenth anniversary of the first volume, with a theme of *Regional Processes and Global Linkages*.

27th – UK **House of Lords Arctic Committee** publish their report on *Responding to a Changing Arctic*.

March

6th – The **Arctic Winter Games** are opened in Nuuk, Greenland.

10th – The **U.S.-Canada Joint Statement on Climate, Energy, and Arctic Leadership** is announced by President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in Washington DC.

9th – **Cold Response 2016**, the Norwegian Armed Forces main winter exercise, concludes with 15,000 soldiers from 14 different nations participating.

10-12th – The first **Model Arctic Council** was held at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

April

5th – China issues its 365-page “*Guidances on the Arctic Navigation in the Northwest Route*” [Northwest Passage].

13th – The **Arctic Economic Council** adopted a suite of foundational documents to provide strategic direction for the organization.

27th – The European Commission **released** its Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on “An Integrated European Union Policy for the Arctic”.

29th – The three Canadian territories release their joint “**Northern Vision**”, including a common climate change adaptation strategy, a renewable energy inventory, and a pan-northern approach to science.

May

10th – Shell relinquishes all but one of its federal offshore leases in **Alaska’s Chukchi Sea**. In June, it further relinquished its 30 offshore exploration permits in Canada’s **Lancaster Sound**.
30th (through June 5th) – **Calotte Academy 2016** begins in Rovaniemi, Finland. This year’s theme was “Resilience Related to Sustainable Development in Globalization.”

### 2016

*June*

10th – The Arctic Coast Guard Forum heads met for the second time, and signed a **joint statement** that establishing the framework for a multi-year strategic plan, avenues to share information, highlight best practices, identify training exercises, and on-the-water combined operations.

14th – France launches its first **National Roadmap** for the Arctic: “The Great Challenge of the Arctic”.

*July*

6th – Nine countries plus the European Union gathered in Iqaluit to discuss international regulation of central **Arctic Ocean fisheries**, following up on a Declaration signed by the “Arctic 5” a year before.

8th – An **ad referendum** agreement on enhancing **scientific cooperation** among circumpolar countries and others interested in polar research signed in Ottawa at the meeting of Arctic Council’s Task Force for Enhancing Scientific Cooperation in the Arctic (SCTF).

25th – Alaska and Lapland return to the **Northern Forum**.

*August*

9th – **Russia** presents its claim to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

29th (through 2nd September) – The 6th International Meeting of Representatives of Arctic Council Member States, Observer States and Foreign Scientific Community begins, held on board the Russian nuclear icebreaker **“50 Years of Victory”**.

*September*

3rd – The **HMS Terror**, one of 2 ships lost in Sir John Franklin’s doomed 1845 expedition to find the Northwest Passage, is found in Nunavut’s aptly named Terror Bay.

6th – Russia announces a **ten-year moratorium on new offshore oil and gas licenses** for drilling in the Arctic shelf.

16th – **Crystal Serenity** completes its luxury cruise through the Northwest Passage.
16th – Russia announces tender for what will be the world’s most powerful icebreaker.

… (September 2016 continued)

19th – The Arctic Council celebrates its 20th anniversary. The Ministers of the Arctic states release a joint statement to commemorate the occasion.

28th – A White House Arctic Science Ministerial is held.

29th – Canadian Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion delivers a speech celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Arctic Council.

5th – The third Senior Arctic Officials meeting of the US Chairmanship begins – in Maine.

6th – Finland announces its preliminary agenda for its 2017-19 Arctic Council Chairmanship.

7-9th – The 4th Arctic Circle Assembly was held in Reykjavik, Iceland.

28th – The Arctic Yearbook 2016 is launched in Ottawa, Canada, where the Arctic Council was founded twenty years ago with the Ottawa Declaration. AY 2016 is themed The Arctic Council: 20 Years of Regional Cooperation and Policy-Shaping.