

CANADA'S NATIONAL ANTARCTIC DATA CENTRE: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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Having recognized the value of effective data and information management in the context of modern science, Canada is actively participating in the work of the Joint Committee on Antarctic Data Management. In consultation with the Canadian Committee on Antarctic Research, members of the National Antarctic Data Centre (NADC) have established a multi-part strategy to ensure that the NADC can meet the growing needs of the Canadian Antarctic science community. The NADC is a collaborative effort of the Canadian Polar Commission and the Carleton University in Ottawa.

The aforementioned strategy aims to address several issues recognized as important for effective data and information management. A data management plan is being developed in consultation with several relevant stakeholders including Antarctic scientists, members of federal government information management initiatives, and proponents of the emerging International Polar Year Data and Information Service. In addition to policy initiatives, the NADC is developing a number of technical solutions to facilitate data and information management and exchange.

A review of results is provided including an overview of policy directions and descriptions and depictions of technical solutions being developed and introduced within the community. A discussion of various challenges being addressed by the community is provided, including strategies being implemented to address the decentralized and geographically distributed nature of the Canadian Antarctic science community. Short, medium and long term goals for the NADC are presented.