



DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN

Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA

Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 4-6:

ICC Alaska Bering Straits Regional Education Decolonization Think Tank • Nome, Alaska •

April 19-21:

U.S. Meeting on High Arctic Sea Fisheries in the Central Arctic • Washington, DC •

May 4-5:

ICC Alaska Education Project Steering Committee Meeting • Barrow, Alaska •

May 31- June 2:

Arctic Council AMAP Working Group • Obninsk, Russia •

June 1-2:

ICC Alaska Northwest Arctic Regional Education Decolonization Think Tank • Kotzebue, Alaska •

June 1-2:

Arctic Council Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation • Reykjavik, Iceland •

June 15-16:

Arctic Council EPPR Working Group Meeting • Montreal, Quebec •

June 16-17:

Arctic Council AMAP/CAFF/SDWG Working Groups - Fresh Water Workshop • Helsinki, Finland •

July 6-8:

Arctic Council Scientific Cooperation Task Force • Ottawa, Canada •

August 2-5:

Kawerak Rural Providers Conference • Nome, Alaska •

August 23-26:

Arctic Council Ecosystem Approach Workshop • Fairbanks, Alaska •

August 26-27:

ICC Executive Council Meeting • Qaortoq, Greenland •



Carolina Behe, Indigenous Knowledge/Science Advisor at ICC-Alaska, facilitates a session discussion on Indigenous Knowledge and community driven research during the Arctic Observing Summit. Photo by Julien Schroder provided by Arctic Observing Summit.

ICC Pushes for Inuit Engagement

By ICC Alaska Staff

A Report from the Third Arctic Observing Summit...

Monitoring, community based monitoring, observation systems, citizen science, scientific measurements, scientific monitoring methodologies; these are terms that we are all hearing with increasing frequency. However, we are hearing them second hand or often when information is wanted from our communities. We are not hearing much about the monitoring that we have been doing since time immemorial or monitoring using important points from our Indigenous Knowledge, such as the need to monitor through all seasons. With the rapid changes occurring across the Arctic, there is a need to increase coordination across monitoring efforts and to have access to information quickly to make decisions. Like all things taking place in the Arctic, it is necessary for Inuit to have a prominent role in determining what is needed and how to make things happen.

The third annual Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) provided us with an opportunity to further this conversation and to ensure Inuit were part of the conversation. AOS took place 15-18 March in Fairbanks as part of the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW). AOS brought together scientists from multiple disciplines, Indigenous Knowledge holders, decision makers and high-level policy makers to discuss observation systems through six focused themes. ICC was part of the executive organizing committee for the overall summit. Additionally, we played a large role in organizing, planning, and facilitating the discussions that took place.

Through these positions, ICC was able to push and advocate for Inuit perspectives and involvement in the organization and implementation of AOS. Additionally, we were able to put forward recommendations that support ICC's mandates and Kitigaaryuit Declaration. For example, we were able to hold dialogues that focused on what Indigenous Knowledge, community driven research and monitoring, collaborative work, meaningful engagement and empowerment of communities is. We also were able to hold discussions on

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President's Message

Jim Stotts

Consultation – What Does It Really Mean?

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted in September 2007. Article 19 of UNDRIP says: "States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them."

The U.S. and Canada were two of four countries that voted against UNDRIP originally. These four countries have since changed their positions. The U.S. decided to support UNDRIP in December 2010 and its support is qualified or conditional.

There are two noteworthy conditions for support: first, UNDRIP's concept of self-determination is limited by existing U.S. laws and policies which means recognized tribes have inherent but limited powers of self-governance; second, the U.S. defines consent only as a process of meaningful consultation with tribal leaders, not necessarily the agreement of those leaders. To the United States, consent means consultation, this is important to realize as these two words have vastly different meanings.


One of the four guiding principles of the May 2013 U.S. National Strategy for the Arctic Region says: "**Consult and Coordinate with Alaska Natives** consistent with tribal consultation policy established by Executive Order. This policy emphasizes trust, respect, and shared responsibility. It articulates that tribal governments have a unique legal relationship with the United States and requires Federal departments and agencies to provide for meaningful and timely input by tribal officials in development of regulatory policies that have tribal implications."

In January 2015 the U.S. administration created protected areas in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. The reason was to protect biodiversity and Inupiat hunting areas along the coast. There also was a protected area created for the Hanna Shoal, which is a known feeding area for walrus. All together 9.8 million acres were set aside for protection.

Inupiat were caught off guard when the protected designation was announced. Both Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and the North Slope Borough came out against the protected designation. Regardless where one stands on this issue, it's clear that the government did not meaningfully consult with Inupiat prior to the announcement. This approach has to stop, now.

Elsewhere in this issue of DRUM is an article about the recent Joint Statement of the U.S. and Canada on Climate, Energy and Arctic Leadership. There is positive language concerning the relationship between Inuit and the two governments covering most concerns and problem areas faced by Inuit. Again meaningful consultation is promised.

However, once again the United States fell short in fulfilling its policy to consult prior to making decisions impacting Inuit in the development of the Joint Statement. Its time the U.S. followed its own policy and talk to the Inuit first. There is no reason for this mishandling of consultation from the governments side to continue. Until meaningful consultation begins, these are just nice words written down on pieces of paper.

To quote renowned Canadian Inuit leader, Mary Simon, commenting on marine protected areas: "These areas should be at the top of the government's list for protection. The best way to ensure this happens is to create a place for Inuit leaders during the selection of candidate areas – instead of asking our opinion afterwards. Together, we can define the most important ocean places and policies to safeguard our Arctic home and our future." Words of wisdom. 

Canada and United States Make a Deal

On Climate, Energy and Arctic Leadership

By ICC Alaska Staff

U.S. President Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau issued a Joint Statement on Climate, Energy, and Arctic Leadership on March 10th. The implications for the future are enormous. It should be evident the two governments are serious about addressing climate change and the fossil fuel industry does not appear to have much of a future in the North American Arctic, particularly in the Arctic Ocean. This comes at a bad time for Alaska, which is facing economic recession due to low prices of crude oil in the marketplace. The state economy is heavily dependent on the oil/gas industry.

The view of the U.S. federal government is in stark contrast to the perspective of the Alaskan state government. The major difference between the two visions is over sustainable development, with both sides worlds part. The state promotes aggressive resource development while the federal government is clearly on the side of conservation. ICC believes the right approach should be somewhere in the middle, true sustainable development.

From the U.S. perspective this should not be surprising as the joint statement reflects what the Obama administration has been promoting for nearly three years since coming out with the U.S. National Strategy for the Arctic Region in 2013. The federal administration's message has been consistent. Unfortunately, the state government has not been able to adjust to this political reality.

For Canada, the statement reflects a world of change from the policies of the previous government under Prime Minister Harper. Prime Minister Trudeau won in a landslide so it could be said he has the backing of the electorate.

So what does the statement actually say? It makes sense to look at the statement by considering the three areas where the two countries agreed to cooperate. Here is a summarized version:

Climate: The two will work together to implement the Paris Agreement by: implementing their respective Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs); enhancing their adaptation efforts by coordination through the National Adaptation Plans Global Network; working towards enhanced transparency under the new Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency and; working to implement the carbon markets-related provisions of the Paris Agreement. We encourage everyone to study the Paris Agreement in detail to understand how future events will unfold.

On the domestic front, the two are committed to reducing methane emissions by 40-45 percent below 2012 levels by 2025, and they will work to develop regulations on existing and new sources of methane emissions from the oil/gas sector. They will build on the U.S.-Canada Air Quality Agreement to reduce methane emissions. They will improve transparency,

data collection, and R&D and share knowledge of cost-effective methane reduction technologies and practices. They both endorse the World Bank's Zero Routine Flaring by 2020 Initiative. They both commit to reduce use and emissions of hydro fluorocarbons (HFCs). They will work to improve fuel efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions from vehicles.

On the global front, the two commit to adopt a Montreal Protocol HFC phasedown amendment in 2016. They will work together through the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to reduce emissions from international aviation. They will work together through the G-20 on improving environmental performance of vehicles and reduction of methane emissions. Finally they commit to addressing the intersection of climate change and security as an issue for foreign, defense, and development policies.

Energy: The two countries commit to strengthen North American energy security, phase out fossil fuel subsidies, and accelerate clean energy development to address climate change to foster sustainable energy development and economic growth.

Specifically they will: facilitate integration of renewable energy on our interconnected grids; align energy efficiency standards and expand shared labeling programs; accelerate clean energy and clean technology innovation; advance global efforts to accelerate clean energy and; develop a joint U.S.-Canadian strategy for strengthening the security and resilience of the North American electricity grid.

Arctic Leadership: The two leaders announced a new partnership to embrace opportunities and confront the challenges in a changing Arctic, with Indigenous and northern partners, and responsible science-based leadership. They called on Arctic nations to embrace a new future for Arctic leadership following these four objectives:

Conserving Arctic biodiversity through science-based decision making. The two re-affirmed the goal of protecting 17 percent of land areas and 10 percent of marine areas by 2020 working together with Indigenous partners and local and state governments utilizing the best available science and Indigenous knowledge. They will champion a pan-Arctic marine protected area network.

Incorporating Indigenous science and traditional knowledge into decision-making. The two are committed to collaborating with Indigenous and other northern leaders to broadly and respectfully use Indigenous science and traditional knowledge into decision making, including environmental assessments, resource management, and advancing our understanding of climate change and how to manage its effects.

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Executive Council Meets in Ottawa

By ICC Alaska Staff

The Council met January 27-28 in Ottawa. The meeting coincided with the Northern Lights Trade Show which is billed as the largest such gathering in Canada. This trade show attracts Inuit from all corners of the north with approximately 1000 attendees, including Inuit from Alaska and Greenland.

Chair report: Okalik Eegeesiak reported on her involvement at the Arctic Circle Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland where she gave a keynote speech and spoke at different side events. She also reported on her participation at the COP21 Climate Change Conference in Paris, France. This was reported on in the last issue of DRUM.

She noted that she is working with the Arctic Council RISING SUN project, which seeks to better understand suicide in northern communities. She is also engaged with the Arctic Council "One Health" project which looks holistically at how all aspects of economy, society, culture and the natural world interact with and influence health and wellness.

She recently chaired the first face-to-face meeting of the "Pikialasorsuaq Commission" in Iqaluit, Nunavut. The three person commission is: Eva Areak, former Nunavut Premier; Kuupik Kleist, former Greenland Premier; and Okalik Eegeesiak, Chair of the ICC. Pikialasorsuaq is the largest polynya in the north hemisphere and is located in Davis Strait between Canada and Greenland. It is one of the most biologically productive regions in the Arctic. The commission will conduct hearings in high Arctic communities in Canada and Greenland. The commission report with findings will be released in late fall of 2016.

Greenland: Hjalmar Dahl stated financial cutbacks from the Greenland government have been suspended and the Danish government is also positive about financial support. This is great news for ICC Greenland. He also reported that the ICC Greenland delegation has met to start to focus on issues raised by the Kitigaaryuit Declaration. Hjalmar has initiated lecture tours to the major educational centers to present information on ICC, United Nations and Arctic Council to youth.

He reported on a joint Saami and Inuit youth project held November 2-10 in Nuuk, Greenland. Seven Saami students from Norway, Sweden and Finland together with five Inuit colleagues spent time learning about relevant Arctic issues. A second seminar is planned for Inari, Finland in June 2016. The Nordic Council of Ministers funded the project.

Another project, the "Better Citizen Involvement in Kuannersuit" is concerned with development of a mine in south Greenland containing uranium. ICC Greenland, with a grant from Greenland's Premier, undertook a study to identify what information is needed for citizens to make informed decisions on the mine project. ICC Greenland relied heavily on provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples including the right to free, prior, informed consent.

Chukotka: Tatiana Achirgina reported on many activities taking place in conjunction with the 85th Anniversary of the



ICC Executive Council at the recent Ottawa meeting. Top L to R: Jim Stotts (Alaska), Hjlmer Dahl (Greenland), Duane Smith (Canada), and Herb Nakimayak (Canada). Bottom L to R: Tatiana Achirgina (Chukotka) Okalik Eegeesiak (ICC Chair) and Vera Metcalf (Alaska).

Chukotka Autonomous Region. In honor of the Anniversary, the District Governor, Roman Kopin gave special recognition to ICC Chukotka – "For your hard work for the benefit of the Chukotka Autonomous Region."

She reported on recent teleconferences with Alaska on the issues of traditional land use and community economic development. The conversations discussed the role of organization, the protection of nature for food security, and community development: commercial success and preservation of the environment. Tatiana also reported that ICC Chukotka had supported ICC Alaska by providing information on the health of marine mammals and fish in Chukotka. The statistics provided will be use in future Arctic Council work.

Elena Kaminskaya submitted a written report about celebrations on Inuit Day, November 7th. The celebrations were held in conjunction with the 85th Anniversary of the Chukotka Region. A number of the events centered on revitalizing the Yupik language. She said that for the first time in many years the kindergarten has resumed the study of the native language.

Canada: Duane Smith reported on recent elections in Canada. Justin Trudeau of the Liberal Party was elected Prime Minister. Natan Obed was elected ITK President. Herb Nakimayak, ICC Executive Council, was elected to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly. Duane Smith was elected CEO and Chair of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and he will step down from the Executive Council after 17 years of service.

He reported on the ICC Canada Annual Meeting where Canada's work and financial situation is reviewed and directors are elected. All four regional directors were reelected. The meeting was held in Cambridge Bay with the next meeting to be held somewhere in Nunavik.

Duane reported on Canada's work to implement provisions of the 2010 Nagoya Protocol under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Canada was represented at the Stockholm Convention's

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Chair's Message

J. Okalik Eegeesiak

Ullukkut,

It has been a busy and fulfilling few months. In February I travelled to Brussels to address the European Union and the European Commission on issues such as polar bears, Inuit rights and the changing Arctic. Enormous interest was

extended to my presentations. I brought the message that the Arctic is experiencing considerable socioeconomic as well as climatic change.

The Arctic is vast and the communities unique in nation states and between Inuit states. Our visioning exercise will be unique for different communities and the opportunities and challenges associated with Arctic change will vary significantly over time and place. Different communities face different risks from a changing Arctic and have different perspectives regarding the implications of those risks as well as the most appropriate response options. Being part of the planning and the research, the governance of evidence-based decision-making will ultimately lead to more sustainable decisions in Arctic communities.

There still remain uncertainties. For example, the evolution of governance systems in the Arctic as well as global demands for energy and the exploitation of Arctic resources are based more on commodity process than on the thickness of the ice. The strength and level of cooperation among different institutions affect how well Inuit communities cope with change.

The trip to Brussels was followed by an invitation to address the Wilton Park Conference in London, England on matters of importance to Inuit and to consider a 30-year vision for the Arctic. A 30-year vision for the Arctic is important. I reminded delegates that Inuit also believe in a vision for the Arctic, it is both a vision that looks back and looks forward, guided by our past, to inform our future. I shared with the delegates some of the challenges that rapid and unpredictable change is bringing to my Nunaat.

Inuit have occupied the circumpolar Arctic for millennia, carving a pragmatic culture from the land and sea; we have survived famines, the little ice age, Vikings, whalers, missionaries, residential schools, and successive governments. And, we intend to continue to thrive with climate change. A documentary was recently released in Canada that told of the accounts of two Inuit families and a single man from Labrador, Canada, now called Nunatsiavut. These Inuit were brought to Europe in the 1880's and displayed in "zoos". Their remains are in storage in museums in France and Germany and their predecessors are now working to repatriate them. I shared these struggles and trauma to illustrate that we have come a long way and to remind people we cannot forget our past history, that we must forge innovative paths forward and partnerships built on

understanding and shared values as we imagine together the possibility of the Arctic in 2045.


In March I travelled to Fairbanks, Alaska to attend the International Arctic Assembly and spoke on "The Role of Scientific Research in Decision Making, Policy, Industry, Security and Environmental Stewardship". I was pleased to speak to the need for scientific research in evidence-based decision-making in the Arctic and reminded the audience that this requires the use of all knowledge sources available. That Indigenous Knowledge must be similarly considered.

As I travel to bring the Inuit voice to the world I am constantly met with great interest in the issues the Arctic faces, in our culture and in our land. The Arctic truly has the global consciousness spellbound, those who want to use it, ship through it, explore it, mine it, and protect it. For Inuit the Arctic defines who we are, a pragmatic hunting culture. Inuit base decisions on our indigenous knowledge of our past, of our present and of our future, a robust knowledge system based on observing, testing and orally passing down from one generation to the next.

In the Arctic, research is an industry; there is the research season when all the scientists migrate north. And, after 200 of years of active Arctic research, Inuit knowledge holders are still concerned with the types of research occurring in Inuit Nunaat, the lack of communication with communities, the lack of engagement with indigenous knowledge holders as research partners and the lack of the use of indigenous knowledge in evidence-based decision-making. Hopefully the March 2016 Canada/US Arctic Agreement is a geologic shift and will provide the sheer force required to re-align Arctic research to truly engage, partner, support communities and Inuit knowledge holders in the research process and decision paths.

As the world looks northward for resources, shipping, fisheries, Inuit must be heard, we must be part of any decision making in Inuit Nunaat. We have an established system of governance and we welcome partnerships and relationships that support our rights, as entrenched in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), to pursue our cultural heritage.

As always we are looking forward to holding up positive progress in, yet, another agreement that commits to working with indigenous peoples. Inuit are living proof that evidence-based decision-making works. Work with us for the benefit of Inuit, the Arctic and the planet.

Once again, ICC and our fellow indigenous peoples will be in New York City in May working the halls at the United Nations to discuss next steps in the implementation of the UNDRIP, slowly but surely. From Inuit, by Inuit, to Inuit, for Inuit, in Inuit Nunaat for the benefit of the global community. 

Aingai.

SAO Fairbanks Meeting Report

By ICC Alaska Staff

Fairbanks was the site for the second Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) meeting under the U.S. chairmanship. The meeting was held March 15-17. A SAO meeting usually draws a crowd and Fairbanks had about 1000 people attending other events in conjunction with the meeting. Local hotels, car rental agencies and meeting facilities at the University of Alaska campus were nearly maxed out.

Other events going on at the same time included: Arctic Science Summit Week, Arctic Observing Summit, Model Arctic Council, and the International Arctic Assembly. There were more than 30 nations and more than 130 different institutions registered for these events. More than one-tenth of the participants were indigenous peoples. The organizers were pleased with the results and proclaimed the weeklong gathering a success.

SAO Executive session: The closed meeting was held the afternoon of March 15. Some of the topics discussed included:

Reports submitted by observers for the review process to renew their observer status: it was decided that approximately half of the observers would be reviewed during the current U.S. chairmanship with the remaining half reviewed during the Finish chairmanship.

Development of the Arctic Council (AC) including whether to develop a strategic plan: there was general support for consideration of strategic priorities, but how to proceed requires more talk.

Structure of the AC including the use of Task Forces and Expert Groups: it was thought that use of these forums should be kept to a minimum and perhaps logistically linked to other meetings to save on time and travel. Also Task Forces and Expert Groups should have defined end dates.

Discussion on how the Arctic Economic Council (AEC) could be linked to the AC: Tara Sweeney, AEC Chair, presented an update on the AEC and stated the AEC wants a formalized

relationship with the AC. This was discussed without resolving what structure collaboration could take. More discussion was indicated.

The Arctic Investment Protocol developed by the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Arctic: no conclusions were reached on the six principles of the protocol. A presentation on the protocol for SAOs will be arranged in the near future.

There was open discussion on promoting an economic agenda in the AC: it was stated that the states had this responsibility. Some thought it was important to define the role of the AEC in this endeavor. ICC mentioned that it had submitted the Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat. The Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC) stated subsistence ways of life is economic activity. The Saami Council (SC) stressed economic development should not be "outsourced" to external bodies, as sustainable development is the AC's mandate. The Aleut International Association (AIA) pointed out that perhaps return-on-investment could also be evaluated in terms of wellness in Arctic communities. Generally SAOs desired to increase the economic dimension in AC's work. It was decided to have a paper prepared to provide options for the SAOs to consider by the July/August timeframe.

Regarding AC Secretariat (ACS) staff recruitment: the Administrative Group was tasked to look at options to deal with the challenges for ACS staffing that was created by the decline of the Norwegian Kroner.

The U.S. chairmanship is developing, with the six working groups (WGs), a set of common operating guidelines to be hopefully presented at the next SAO meeting.

Finally, there was talk on pending applications for Observer status. There are 16 applicants at this time. There were no conclusions made and this topic will be discussed at the next SAO meeting.



Indigenous participants at the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials meeting in Fairbanks. Photo by the Arctic Council Secretariat.

Plenary session: The open meeting was held March 16-17. Welcoming remarks were given by Dr. James Johnsen, President of the University of Alaska, and Admiral (ret.) Robert Papp who announced the White House Arctic Science Ministerial, which will take place in Washington D.C. in the October/November timeframe.

There were reports on: AC side event on black carbon/methane at COP21, a meeting of the four Regional Councils of the North, and the SAO Chair meeting with WG Chairs. The Chair invited delegates to comment on any plans they had for celebrating AC's 20th anniversary. ICC stated it was working on a photo exhibition of its "I Am Inuit" project in conjunction with the Fairbanks AC Ministerial.

Each WG presented a showcase project: ACAP – Circumpolar Local Environmental Observer Network; AMAP – Arctic Freshwater Synthesis report; CAFF – Invasive Alien Species; EPPR – Search and Rescue; PAME – Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas; SDWG – Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy. WG reports were also reviewed.

There was interest in developing a Traditional Local Knowledge (TLK) lexicon for AC use when speaking or writing about TLK. Canada was tasked with chairing a group to see if consensus could be reached on a lexicon. Several Permanent Participants (PPs) were skeptical since past efforts were not successful.

Under the topic of strengthening the AC there was a discussion on funding mechanisms in the AC. The U.S. and the ACS will prepare a report to start to understand how to better manage and report the funding process within the AC. This report will also attempt to quantify in-kind contributions.

Guidelines on how the AC relates to outside bodies was presented and approved. SAOs also approved the AC communications guidelines.

Climate Change and Resilience: The SAOs took up the first crosscutting theme of Climate Change and Resilience. The Director for Strategy at the U.N. Climate Change Secretariat, Halldor Thorgeirsson, opened the discussion by presenting on the Paris Climate Change Agreement. He commented on contributions the AC could make to support the Paris Agreement: 1) continue to press for black carbon/methane (BCM) mitigation; 2) focus on resilience and adaptation; 3) invest in Arctic observing systems; 4) communicate the role the Arctic plays in climate change.

There was an update on the effort to reduce BCM emissions from the Chair of the BCM Expert Group. There was a report on the Resilience Workshop, which took place just prior to the SAO meeting and an update on the Arctic Resilience Assessment (ARA). The SDWG Chair reported on the One Health project.



Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) take time out to have some fun at the Arctic Council SAO meeting in Fairbanks. Photo by the Arctic Council Secretariat.


The open discussion at the end of this topic was stimulating and generated a lot of great ideas. This topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

Future AC work on oil and gas: The second crosscutting theme was future work on oil and gas. Discussions opened with a presentation by the ACAP Chair on the idea of reducing gas flaring in the oil/gas industry. The Chair of the Arctic Offshore Regulators Forum (AORF), Mark Fesmire, then gave an update on the work of the AORF and presented the Forum's terms of reference.

The open discussions at the end of this topic were inconclusive. Several delegations made a distinction between onshore and offshore activity in terms of jurisdiction, regulation, and environmental issues. Generally delegates want balance between environment and development issues, but there is no broad agreement on what this really means.

There were status reports from three Task Forces: 1) Task Force on Telecommunications Infrastructure in the Arctic (TFTIA); 2) Task Force for Enhancing Scientific Cooperation in the Arctic (SCTF); 3) Task Force for Arctic Marine Cooperation (TFAMC).

The meeting concluded with remarks from Observers. They self-organized into three groups: Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), Nation states, and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs). The IGO speaker represented the Nordic Council of Ministers. The State representative was from Germany's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Finally the International Arctic Science Committee represented the NGOs.

The next SAO meeting will be held October 4-6 in Portland, Maine. To learn more about the Arctic Council go to www.arctic-council.org. 

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Introducing Eilene Adams


Eilene Adams joined the ICC Alaska office as Project Assistant in January. She is Inupiaq and Athabascan originally from Barrow, Alaska. She came to ICC Alaska with 10 years experience in office administration and human resources at the North Slope Borough. Eilene said, "I relocated to Anchorage for a career change and to experience life outside of my hometown while continuing to embrace my cultural lifestyle. I enjoy hunting, camping, sewing, and spending time with my family. I am excited to have joined the ICC Alaska team as Project Assistant and look forward to meeting you all. Quyanaqpak!" 

Photo by Jacki Cleveland.

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co-production of knowledge, education and capacity building and equitable use of Indigenous Knowledge and Science.

Out of the Summit came eight initial recommendations. One of the recommendations calls for: "Develop international principles and protocols that establish ethical guidelines for research, for the involvement of Arctic Indigenous Knowledge holders, for the use of Indigenous Knowledge and the co-production of knowledge. Develop mechanisms to enable

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Building a sustainable Arctic economy. The two will set standards basing development decisions and operations on scientific evidence including shipping, fishing, and oil and gas. Commercial activities would happen only when safety and environmental standards are met including national and global climate and environmental goals and Indigenous rights and agreements. Under this objective are three bullet points on: low impact shipping corridors, abundant Arctic fish, and science-based approach to oil and gas. We urge everyone to study this section in detail to better understand the ramifications.

Supporting strong Arctic communities. The two will take new approaches and exchange best practices to strengthen community resilience and well being of Arctic residents, in particular respecting the rights and territory of Indigenous peoples. It's stated that Arctic Indigenous peoples are vital to strengthening and supporting U.S. and Canadian sovereignty claims. They commit to partner to implement land claims agreements to realize the social, cultural and economic potential of all Indigenous and northern communities.

They commit to develop and deploy renewable energy and efficiency alternatives to diesel and advance climate change adaptation. Coordinating with Indigenous and other local governments they will develop options for community housing and infrastructure. They also commit to action to address challenges of mental wellness, education, Indigenous language, and skill development, particularly among Indigenous youth.

The Arctic Leadership objective, in particular, has strong positive language regarding government relations with Inuit in the two countries. Many of the concerns and issues

collaborative approaches and building of trust among partners, such as researchers, Indigenous Peoples, private sector entities and others, to define observational needs, and to plan, prioritize, implement, and use sustained observations."


Additional recommendations will follow and ICC will continue to work to put forward those that come directly from and empower our people to participate fully in decision making. 

of Inuit are mentioned as areas for further collaboration and resolution.

Reactions to the joint statement are still coming in. The Inuit community is surprisingly quiet so far with a few exceptions. From Alaska, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and the North Slope Borough have issued press releases that denounce the joint agreement. Their main criticism is that the agreement is too skewed on the side of conservation. They also claim they were not consulted prior to the agreement moving forward. In Canada, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), Canada's national Inuit organization, has generally supported the statement. Former ICC Chair from Canada, Mary Simon, in a published editorial called the deal a path for full Inuit participation in the northern economy.

In a press release in response to the Joint Statement, ICC applauded the agreement to cooperate on Arctic issues: "ICC appreciates the attention given to issues related to climate change, renewable energy needs, shipping safety and impacts, Arctic fisheries, Indigenous Knowledge, the importance of Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic and the need for knowledge based decision-making." However, there were some shortcomings in the agreement that was pointed out in the press release.


Jim Stotts, ICC-Alaska President called out the government's lack of consultation and called for meaningful engagement of Inuit in decisions that affect us. The press release also emphasized the need for balanced, sustainable development in the Arctic.

No matter what one may think about this deal, it will affect everyone in the rapidly changing Arctic. 



Duane Smith, ICC Canada President and Jim Stotts, ICC Alaska President. Photo provided by Jim Stotts.

Thank you Duane!

Duane Smith has resigned as President of ICC Canada after 17 years of dedicated service to the organization. He's leaving to assume the full time-position of President and CEO of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, headquartered in his hometown of Inuvik, Northwest Territories. We will miss Duane's insight, wisdom, friendship and sense of humor. He will be hard to replace. Luckily for us, he will continue as a Board member of ICC Canada as the leader of his region. We want to wish him good luck, good times and great success at the IRC. Thank you Duane! 

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11th meeting of its scientific subsidiary body, the Persistent Organic Pollutant Review Committee (POPRC-11) in Rome, Italy. Several interventions were made during the meeting to voice Inuit concerns on the occurrence of these chemicals in the Arctic.

Duane attended the Polar Bear Range States meeting in Greenland on behalf of ICC. The range states are: Canada, Norway, Russia and the USA. The meeting called for the creation of a traditional knowledge working group, as well as a 10 year Circumpolar Action Plan.

Alaska: Jim Stotts reported on the current state of the Alaska economy, which is in shambles.

Steep drops in the price of crude oil and the move of Shell Oil out of the Chukchi Sea have had disastrous results on the State economy. The Alaska State government is facing a budget shortfall of over \$4 billion this year. State services including education and health services have been cut. Sadly, the State legislature seems unable to deal with this urgent problem. It appears economic recession is on the horizon. This will be a major issue for some time to come.

Since the last ECM, ICC Alaska has hired three new employees; Jacqueline Cleveland, Cultural Sustainability Advisor; Pauline Harvey, Education Project Director; and Eileen Adams, Project Assistant. Eileen replaced Minnie Naylor who moved to Fairbanks to work for the University of Alaska.



ICC Canada staff presented Duane Smith with thank you gifts at his last ICC Executive Council meeting in Ottawa. Photo by Jim Stotts.

Jim provided updates on Alaska's Food Security project, Education Improvement project and the "I Am Inuit" project. He also provided an update on progress on implementing the Kitigaaryuit Declaration by ICC Alaska.


United Nations: Under this topic the Council discussed the upcoming UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), which will hold its 15th session 9-20 May in New York City. The special theme for this session is: "Indigenous peoples; conflict, peace and resolution." There were short discussions on the Expert Mechanism of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), which has not yet set its next meeting date; and implementation efforts on the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document.

Canada led discussions on recent activity within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). In particular there is an issue with polar bears being up-listed on the endangered species list under CITES. Inuit generally are opposed to this classification.


Arctic Council: The discussions covered the many meetings that ICC attends at the Arctic Council. The Arctic Council is the most active file for ICC overall with all offices participating. There is an article on recent Arctic Council activities in Fairbanks, Alaska in this issue of DRUM.

ICC Summits: ICC plans to hold three Summits during this term. After much talk it was decided to hold the Wildlife Management Summit in Kuujuaq, Canada during November 2016, the Economic Summit in Anchorage, Alaska during February 2017, and the Education Summit in Greenland later in the fall of 2017.

After the meeting there was a celebration to honor Duane Smith for his long and inspiring leadership within the ICC. Duane was presented with a beautiful stone carving of a narwhale from ICC and ICC Canada staff presented him with a photo album covering his 17 years with ICC. Duane will be greatly missed. ICC-Canada will name a replacement in April.

The next Executive Council Meeting will be held in Qaqortoq, Greenland in late August. 

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We are pleased to announce that we have launched a new website! We hope that the new website will provide a visually pleasing and improved user experience. We are thankful for the wonderful photo contributions to the website that help us show who we are as a People and organization. We received photo donations from Jacqueline Cleveland, Amos Oxereok, Brian Adams, Mary Sage, Kelly Eningowuk and the North Slope Borough. Not only does the website look great, it was also redesigned to make it more user friendly. You can now easily find organizational information and documents and subscribe to receive ICC-Alaska news by email on the contact us page. We also have a new “donate” page where supporters can make donations with a credit card via Paypal.

www.iccalaska.org

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Inuit Circumpolar Council-Alaska (ICC-Alaska) exists to be the unified voice and collective spirit of Alaskan Inuit, to promote, protect and advance Inuit culture and society.

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