

# DRUM

*Inupiaq:* QILAUN

*Siberian Yupik:* SAGUYA

*Central Yupik:* CAUYAQ

## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1-5, 2016

Arctic Council Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group meeting, • Stockholm, Sweden • [www.pame.is](http://www.pame.is)

February 1-5, 2016

Arctic Council Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group meeting • Kirkenes, Norway • [www.caff.is](http://www.caff.is)

February 11-12

Indigenous Peoples' Council for Marine Mammals Meeting • Anchorage, Alaska • [www.ipcommalaska.org](http://www.ipcommalaska.org)

February 8-12, 2016

Alaska Forum on the Environment • Anchorage, Alaska • [www.akforum.org](http://www.akforum.org)

February 17-18, 2016

ICC-Alaska Bering Straits Regional Education Decolonization Think Tank, • Nome, Alaska • [www.iccalaska.org](http://www.iccalaska.org)

March 11-12, 2016

Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) • Barrow, Alaska • [www.sdwg.org](http://www.sdwg.org)

March 13-18, 2016

Arctic Science Summit Week, • Fairbanks, Alaska • <https://assw2016.org/>

March 15-16, 2016

Arctic Observing Summit, • Fairbanks, Alaska • <http://www.arcticobservingsummit.org/>

March 15-17, 2016

Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) Meeting, • Fairbanks, Alaska • [www.arctic-council.org](http://www.arctic-council.org)

April 1-2, 2016

Camai Festival, • Bethel, Alaska •



Arctic Day panel session at the UNFCCC COP 21 in Paris. L to R: Mataalii Okalik, President of the National Inuit Youth Council (Canada), Aili Keskitalo, President of the Saami Parliament in Norway, Cathy Towtongie, President of the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (Canada), Reggie Joule, Former Mayor of the Northwest Arctic Borough (Alaska), Okalik Egeesiak, ICC Chair (Canada). Photo provided by ICC Canada.

## UNFCCC COP 21 in Paris

By ICC Canada Staff

Inuit were well represented at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP) 21 in Paris, France in December. The ICC delegation included leaders and youth from Canada, Alaska, and Greenland and was led by ICC Chair Okalik Egeesiak. Former Northwest Arctic Borough Mayor Reggie Joule represented ICC-Alaska at the meeting. ICC joined the Saami Council to represent the Arctic region at the UNFCCC.

In 1992, countries signed the UNFCCC, to cooperatively consider what they could do to limit average global temperature increase and the resulting changes in climate, as well as to cope with whatever impacts were, by then, inevitable. There are now 195 Parties to the Convention and 192 Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in the year 2020. COP 21 set out to, for the first time in over 20 years of UNFCCC negotiations, to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate change. The Paris Agreement, adopted by all 195 Parties on December 21, 2015, will come into effect in 2020. A copy of the agreement can be found online on the UNFCCC website.

Okalik said, "These negotiations were tremendously difficult but in the end we made progress. The real test will be holding states to the commitments made, to recognize the rights of indigenous peoples, to address climate change action and affect real change in Arctic communities. The recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples was an important issue and the fact that it is in the Paris Agreement is the result of significant effort by indigenous peoples globally at the talks."

ICC advocated for financing of climate adaptation and mitigation projects and the recognition of Indigenous Knowledge. The Paris Accord states, "Parties acknowledge that adaptation action should follow... and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples..." ICC made numerous interventions on the issue of the need to stabilize global temperature increases to 1.5°C as opposed to the more globally accepted 2.0°C. The final text states that nations commit

*continued on page 5*





## ICC ALASKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### ICC Executive Council

Jim Stotts, President

Vera Metcalf, Vice President

### North Slope Region

Charlotte Brower  
(North Slope Borough)

George Olemaun  
(Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope)

Richard Glenn  
(Arctic Slope Regional Corporation)

Nicole Kanayurak  
(Youth Representative)

### Northwest Arctic Region

Wayne Westlake  
(NANA Regional Corporation)

Percy Ballot  
(Maniilaq Association)

Hendy Ballot  
(Northwest Arctic Borough)

### Bering Straits Region

Denise Michels  
(Kawerak, Incorporated)

Roy Ashenfelter  
(Bering Straits Native Corporation)

### Southwest Region

Vivian Korthuis  
(Association of Village Council Presidents)

June McAttee  
(Calista Corporation)

Edward Adams, Sr.  
(Elder Representative)



## President's Message

Jim Stotts

### *The TFAMC and MPA's...*

Last April in Iqaluit Arctic Council Ministers created a Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation (TFAMC). The mandate for the Task Force is to deliver a report to Ministers in 2017 identifying future need for strengthened cooperation for Arctic marine areas, as well as whether the Council should begin negotiations on a cooperation

mechanism for Arctic marine areas – ideally naming the specific mechanism – and/or any other recommendations it may deem appropriate.


The TFAMC met September 21-22 in Oslo, Norway with a second meeting planned for February 4-5 in Stockholm, Sweden. The TFAMC is co-chaired by Iceland, Norway and the United States. The co-chairs decided during the first meeting to develop a non-paper to bring some structure and focus before the second meeting. This should help alleviate some confusion on what is expected of the Task Force. This confusion was evident during the first meeting. The non-paper will focus on how to proceed with a needs assessment. The non-paper has stimulated considerable interest and the February meeting should generate lively debate.

It's important to note that creation of the TFAMC was not a decision to establish a cooperation mechanism. The Arctic states will make this decision later after reviewing the Task Force's analysis and recommendations. The mandate for the Task Force is somewhat broad and general; one could use the term vague. Originally this U.S. chairmanship proposal was to develop a Regional Seas Agreement; however it was scaled back after receiving a lukewarm reception from some of the Arctic states.

At the first meeting a number of objectives were agreed to: 1) The Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (2015-2025) and its four strategic goals will be the starting point for the needs assessment; 2) implementing an ecosystem approach should be a focus of the needs assessment; 3) the needs assessment will be strategic, cross-cutting and forward-looking to identify and anticipate future challenges and opportunities; and 4) the mandate is both inward-looking at the Arctic Council's structure and function as well as outward-looking at how the Council fits within the broader context of global and regional governance.

Because the potential scope of this cooperation is so broad it's important that Inuit keep involved. It's important our perspectives and concerns are included in any cooperation agreement. Inuit are coastal people and our connection to the ocean is well known; our survival as a people depends on the continuation of this relationship. Consultation with Arctic indigenous peoples is crucial to any cooperation mechanism for the Arctic marine environment.

Last November there was a poorly noticed meeting of the Arctic Marine Protected Area (MPA) Working Group in Anchorage. This group, composed mostly of conservationists, without input of local Arctic leaders advises the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on the issue of MPA's. Apparently the NOAA people were surprised when North Slope Borough Mayor, Charlotte Brower and Richard Glenn from the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation showed up to complain. This does not bode well for the notion of government consultation with Inuit as mandated by U.S. Arctic Policy.

MPA's are closely tied to the idea of an Arctic Regional Seas Agreement; there is a close connection between the work of the TFAMC and the work of the PAME working group on MPA's. ICC has consistently stressed three requirements concerning the creation of MPA's: 1) there needs to be a REAL reason for protection - not just to protect some arbitrary percentage of the ocean; 2) the U.S. and the Arctic Council must actually consult, as is the mandate, with the indigenous residents of the Arctic; and 3) access to hunting and fishing and other uses within the MPA's must be ensured for the Inuit. This is a point that none of the Permanent Participants are willing to compromise on. 



## Board Meets in Anchorage

By ICC Alaska Staff

The Board of Directors met in Anchorage November 12-13 in a regular meeting. Most of the agenda focused on administrative items including reviewing and approving previous meeting minutes, financial reports, the 2016 budget and administrative resolutions and polls. The agenda also included regular reports from the President, the Strategic Plan 2014-2018 Progress Report and, member organization reports. Membership requests from the Chugach region were also on the agenda but no action was taken.

President Jim Stotts presented the organization's activity report to the Board. In his report he summarized the organizations general operations and program activities over the last quarter. Jim updated the Board to inform them of the grant received from the U.S. Department of Education, Alaska Native Education Program to facilitate the implementation of the Alaskan Inuit Education Improvement Strategy. Pauline Harvey, former ICC-Alaska Education Steering Committee member, was hired in November to lead that project. Jim also provided an update on organization's efforts within the Arctic Council, including work within the Arctic Councils Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group, the Protection of Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group, the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation, and a project workshop for the project "Reducing the Incidence of Suicide in Indigenous Groups-Strengths United Through Networks (RISING SUN). Jimmy attended various meetings of interest to Inuit and attended by ICC-Alaska during the last quarter, including the Global Leadership in the Arctic: Cooperation, Innovation, Engagement and Resilience (GLACIER) conference, the ICC Executive Council meeting in Bethel and the AVCP Convention. Jimmy completed his report with upcoming activities and meetings occurring before the end of the year. From the report, there were discussions among the Board on the topics of Endangered Species uplistings of marine mammals, marine protected areas, and general U.S. Arctic policy.

Executive Director Kelly Eningowuk presented the annual Strategic Plan 2014-2018 Progress Report. She reported activities and progress made on each of the priorities set by the Board. She also gave a forecast for further progress in the next year based on need and availability of human and financial resources. Food Security remains the top priority for the organization and the big accomplishment for the year was the completion of the

food security report: Alaskan Inuit Food Security Conceptual Framework: How to Assess the Arctic From an Inuit Perspective. The report can be found on our website. In the next year, much of the focus will be on outreach and communications to share the report as far and wide as possible. Staff will also begin to explore the implementation of the report recommendations and will be focused on improving and expanding existing fish and game management structures and to plan and prepare for the Inuit Wildlife Summit, which is tentative set for Fall 2016 in Canada.

Regarding the second priority to "Ensure Inuit Perspective, Concerns and Interests are Represented at the Arctic Council," Kelly reported that the U.S. State Department funding for travel to attend Arctic Council meetings has increased from previous years allowing further engagement from ICC-Alaska. Jim continues to serve as the Head of Delegation for ICC at the Arctic Council and ICC-Alaska will continue to remain engaged with the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), the CAFF, PAME working groups and the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation in the next year as previous. Kelly mentioned that one of the priorities during the current chairmanship of the Arctic Council held by the U.S. is to raise the general public's awareness of the Arctic. In response to that, ICC-Alaska successfully obtained funding to conduct the I am Inuit project which is a project to highlight the human dimension of the Arctic through photographs and short stories to show and celebrate Inuit culture and society. The project website is [www.iaminuit.org](http://www.iaminuit.org).

Improving Alaskan Inuit education is the third priority of the organization. The biggest accomplishment over the year was the successful application for funding for ICC-Alaska to facilitate the implementation of the Alaskan Inuit Education Improvement Strategy, which was completed and distributed earlier this year. Over the next three years, ICC-Alaska will be promoting the Strategy, seeking partnerships and building alliances, hosting regional decolonization think tanks in Barrow, Kotzebue, Nome and Bethel, developing a campaign to promote traditional Inuit parenting, exploring the feasibility of a virtual cache for sharing culturally appropriate curriculum and other

*continued on page 7*



ICC Alaska Board of Directors L to R: Vivian Korthuis, Association of Village Council Presidents, George Olemaun, Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, Liz Cravalho (alt.), NANA Regional Corporation, June McAtee, Calista Corporation, Vera Metcalf, ICC-Alaska Vice President, Jim Stotts, ICC-Alaska President, Roy Ashenfelter, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Denise Michels, Kawerak, Inc., Edward Adams, Sr., Elder Representative and Percy Ballot, Maniilaq Association. Photo by Jacqueline Cleveland.

## Arctic Fisheries Discussed

By ICC Alaska Staff

The U.S.A. hosted an exploratory meeting in Washington D.C. December 1-3, 2015 to discuss interest in preventing unregulated commercial fishing in the high seas area of the Arctic Ocean. The five Arctic coastal states of Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russia and the United States were joined by delegations from Iceland, China, North Korea, Japan and the European Union.

The meeting was held to seek support from other fishing nations and organizations on the topic. A number of delegations attending informed that they did not have a mandate to negotiate an agreement at this time but were interested in discussing possible support. David Balton, U.S. Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries, noted the commitment from all delegations against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The meeting follows the July 16, 2015 signing of the "Declaration Concerning the Prevention of Unregulated High Seas Fishing in the Central Arctic Ocean" by the five Arctic coastal states in Oslo, Norway.

Participants reviewed the 3rd Meeting of Scientific Experts on Fish Stocks in the Arctic Ocean held in Seattle, Washington April 14-16, 2015. The delegations expressed a willingness to cooperate in advancing scientific research and monitoring. The questions are whether there are fish stocks that could support a sustainable commercial fishery in the high seas area of the Arctic Ocean and what would be the effects of a fishery on the ecosystem. Norway offered to host the 4th Scientific Experts meeting in September or October 2016 with the terms of reference for the meeting still to be determined.

Delegates agreed that there is a high level of uncertainty and see the need for a precautionary approach. They agreed


that strengthening international scientific cooperation is necessary. They recognized the interests of Arctic residents, particularly Arctic indigenous peoples and expressed their intention to continue to engage with them. The participants considered various approaches to prevent unregulated commercial fishing in the high Arctic waters. They noted that there is an international legal framework for fisheries management reflected in the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement and other international instruments.

The U.S. presented a proposal for an international agreement that would commit parties to:

authorize their vessels to conduct commercial fishing only pursuant to regional or sub-regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements established to manage fishing in accordance with modern international standards;

establish joint programs of scientific research to inform future fisheries management decisions and improve understanding of the ecosystem; and

ensure any non-commercial fishing in this area follows scientific advice and is well-monitored.

The U.S. proposal was not up for negotiation at the meeting but several delegations commented on it and made suggestions to improve and strengthen it and an updated proposal will be sent to all participants before the next meeting to be held April 19-21 in Washington D.C. For more information on this topic please see the March 2014 issue of DRUM, [www.iccalaska.org](http://www.iccalaska.org). 




INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL-ALASKA

ALASKAN INUIT FOOD SECURITY CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:  
HOW TO ASSESS THE ARCTIC FROM AN INUIT PERSPECTIVE

The Alaskan Inuit Food Security Conceptual Framework: How to Assess the Arctic From an Inuit Perspective Report has been released! You can find the report online on our website: [www.iccalaska.org](http://www.iccalaska.org). Through this project and report we defined our food security, identified the drivers of food (in) security and created a conceptual framework to layout what is needed in an assessment process. Most importantly, we are taking a step towards food sovereignty.

In addition to the 164 contributing authors, Food Security Advisory Committee, Tribal Councils and our membership organizations, many people contributed to the finalization of the Food Security report by providing photos and friendly reviews. Thank you! The following people have provided the photos that assist in explaining our food security: Carolina Behe, Ronald Brower, Jackie Cleveland, Heather Dingman, Kelly Eningowuk, Jenny Irene Miller, Maija Lukin, Minnie Naylor, North Slope Borough, Amos Oxereok, Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Mary Sage and Sam Towarak. The following people provided in-depth friendly

reviews: Raychelle Daniel, Heather Dingman, Leanna Elsworth, Henry Huntington, Eva Krummel, Phil Loring and the Food Security Advisory Committee. 





## Chair's Message

J. Okalik Eegeesiak

*Inuit Voices Informing Action...*

Ullukkut,

January finds the Arctic in the grip of winter weather; welcomed by those of us who depend on the land and sea. The sun is coming back and the future is looking bright. The ICC Executive will meet in Ottawa, Canada late

January to take stock of our accomplishments to date and plan for the next six months. As I travel to bring your 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, explore it, mine it, and protect it. For Inuit, the Arctic defines who we are, a pragmatic adaptable hunting culture.

Fall was a busy season with little time at home to watch the late winter seize the Arctic. It seems that winter comes later and later each year and leaves earlier. I brought this message of Arctic change from Reykjavik to Paris. In Reykjavik, at the Arctic Circle Conference, I gave a keynote speech "Combining Our Collective Knowledge and Making Our Voice Heard". I addressed world leaders, industry representatives, NGO's and indigenous peoples and shared how the Arctic is getting crowded. I expressed the need to make certain Inuit design their own futures and that our communities are prepared to take advantage of the opportunities. I also spoke at side events on issues of renewable energy systems that will save money and reduce Inuit communities' dependence on imported fossil fuels to resource development in the Arctic.

In Paris, France at the UN Climate Negotiations this past December, Inuit were well represented by an ICC delegation with leaders and youth from Canada, Alaska, and Greenland. These negotiations were tremendously difficult but in the end we made progress. The real test will be holding states to the commitments made, to recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples, to address climate change action and affect real change in Arctic communities. Elsewhere in this issue of DRUM is an article with more detailed information on COP21.

In the Chair's strategic plan I committed to work to advance a better understanding of Inuit mental health and support Inuit access to mental health services. In meeting this commitment ICC has been working with Dr. Allison Crawford, an extraordinary physician and psychiatrist, who is working with us to develop the Arctic Council Rising Sun initiative to better understand

suicide in northern communities. I have just returned from Dartmouth College where I spoke at the Fulbright Arctic Initiative Consensus Seminar on Community Health and Wellness in the Arctic on Inuit Determinants of Health and Wellness and the recent climate negotiations.

ICC is now planning and preparing for the ICC Wildlife Management Summit in Canada. The reason for this summit is to examine policies (international, regional, national instruments), environmental change, public perceptions, and changing social economic conditions in the Arctic having an effect on Arctic wildlife and Inuit hunting culture, subsistence, sustainable utilization and harvesting rights. The relationship between Inuit and Arctic wildlife and these influences will be the central discussion and how indigenous knowledge is an important knowledge base for evidence-based decision making. The ICC Economic Summit will follow in Alaska.

I have been working with ICC Greenland to create the Pikialaorsuaq Commission. This Inuit led commission has appointed three commissioners, myself as the International Commissioner, former Nunavut Premier Eva Aariak as the Canadian Commissioner and former Greenland Premier Kuupik Kleist as the Greenland Commissioner. The North Water Polyna is the largest in the northern hemisphere and the most biologically productive ecosystem north of the Arctic Circle. It is an area that will see increasing interest from shipping, fisheries, non-renewable resource exploration/development and tourism. The Commission's mandate is to listen to Inuit communities and knowledge holders who use and depend on this region about their vision for the North Water Polyna's future use and cooperation. The Commission will begin hearings in the Canadian high Arctic in early spring and travel to the Greenland communities after breakup. The Commission report with recommendations on the future of the North Water Polyna will be released to the public in the fall of 2016.


Next month I will travel to England at the invitation of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to speak to the Wilton Park Conference on "The Arctic in 2045: a long-term Vision". That's only 30 years from now; Inuit will bring a much longer-term vision to how we view Inuit Nunaat.

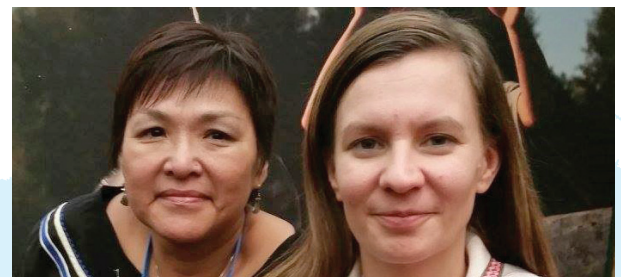
From Inuit, by Inuit, to Inuit, for Inuit, in Inuit Nunaat for the benefit of the global community.

Aingai. 

*continued from page 1*

to "...holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C." ICC delegates worked the halls and met with many world leaders including indigenous peoples leaders, the President of France, the US Secretary of the Interior and other ministers.

ICC remains committed to work with the Arctic States within the Arctic Council; to meet and exceed their commitment and support indigenous communities to make certain the Arctic remains cold. 



Okalik Eegeesiak, ICC Chair and Aile Javo, President, Saami Council at the UNFCCC COP 21 in Paris. Photo provided by ICC Canada.

# First SAO Meeting of the US Chairmanship

By ICC Alaska Staff

Arctic Council (AC) Senior Arctic Officials (SAO's) met in Anchorage October 20-22, 2015. This was the first SAO meeting held in Alaska since the U.S. assumed the AC chairmanship last April. The meeting was held at the Dena'ina Center with about 150 attending. Because of the large size of the venue ICC was able to field an eight-person delegation. This allowed ICC Alaska to appoint one delegate from each of its four regions to observe a SAO meeting first hand.

The morning of the first day SAO's met with Observers on the topic of how best to engage with Observers and to hear from the Observers themselves. Much of the discussion focused on engagement at the AC working group level. Each Observer was given the opportunity to express its thoughts regarding AC involvement. A discussion followed on Observers being involved in three specific initiatives: black carbon and methane, the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative, and research collaboration. The Observers showed interest in all three initiatives.

Observers are a diverse group with different and varied capabilities that could enrich the AC and those present expressed appreciation and found the session useful. The SAO Chair said he felt the session demonstrated a good spirit of partnership.

The afternoon of the first day SAO's held an executive session to discuss Observer issues including: an addendum to the Observer Manual; the review process of accredited Observers; an application form for admission of Observers. Other administrative issues discussed included: cyber-security of the website, preparations for the relocation of Indigenous People's Secretariat (IPS); dates for upcoming 2016 SAO meetings.

The next two days the SAO plenary had a full and active agenda. The agenda was organized under the following topical categories:

Reports from other meetings: There was a report from the joint working group meeting held September 14-18 in

Tromso, Norway. This meeting had delegations from the ACAP, AMAP, CAFF and PAME working groups. There was a report on the GLACIER conference held August 30-31 in Anchorage, Alaska. Both of these meetings were reported on in the September 2015 issue of DRUM.

Strengthening the Arctic Council: Discussed: how AC relates with outside organizations; the integrated records management tool; the open access repository, working group written reports and how to treat working group deliverables; strengthening Permanent Participant capacity; and the relocation of the IPS to Tromso, Norway.


Climate change: Discussed: the progress of AC's black carbon and methane work; "Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic" project; "Arctic Resilience Assessment" report; and a general discussion on how the AC should approach its work effort on climate change in the future.

Environment and biodiversity: Discussed: "Actions for Biodiversity 2013-21" which is the implementation plan for the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment; the scoping study "Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity" (TEEB); and a general discussion on guiding principles for CAFF's work in biodiversity in the future.

Arctic communities: Discussed: how to implement traditional and local knowledge into the work of the AC; an EPPR workshop held in Anchorage October 7-8, 2015 on acute pollution in small communities; a PAME project "Meaningful Engagement of Arctic Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities" (MEMA); a workshop held in Anchorage on suicide prevention, "Reducing the Incidence of Suicide in Indigenous Groups – Strengths United through Networks (RISING SUN); and a general discussion on whether the right issues are being focused on under the topic of Arctic communities.

Oceans: Discussed: a general discussion on the future direction of AC work in this area; progress of the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation; a PAME presentation on plans to implement the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan 2015-25; an EPPR presentation on the "Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic" (MOSPA).

Other projects and initiatives: Discussed: progress of the Task Force on Telecommunications Infrastructure; progress on the Scientific Cooperation Task Force; an update on AMAP's work on unmanned aircraft systems for use in science and monitoring in the Arctic; the Arctic Economic Council has opened an office in Tromso, Norway; some initiatives being considered for the 20th anniversary of the Arctic Council.

The next SAO meeting will be held in Fairbanks, Alaska March 15-17, 2016. If you want to learn more about this meeting and other Arctic Council activities, please visit [www.arctic-council.org](http://www.arctic-council.org). 



Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials Meeting. Photo provided by Arctic Council Secretariat.



# Inuit Reach out to New Government in Canada

By ICC Canada Staff

The impact of a newly elected Canadian government has already been felt by Canadian Inuit, who were quick to reach out to the new prime minister, cabinet members, and government officials. The Liberal party, led by Justin Trudeau, won a majority by taking 184 of 338 parliamentary seats.

Time will tell how the policies of the new government will affect Inuit, but Prime Minister Justin Trudeau pledged numerous times throughout the election campaign to forge a much stronger relationship between Canada and its indigenous peoples. In December, Mr. Trudeau moved forward on these pledges by outlining a five-point plan to support such a relationship.

The Liberal Party plan includes launching a national public inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women, making significant investments in indigenous education, lifting a two percent cap on funding indigenous programs, implementing all 94 recommendations from a Truth and Reconciliation Commission that submitted its report in 2015, and repeal all legislation unilaterally imposed on indigenous peoples by the previous Conservative government.

Then on 16 December, the Canadian prime minister met with 5 indigenous leaders to discuss the implementation of the 94 Truth & Reconciliation recommendations. Natan Obed, president of Canada's national Inuit organization, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, as well as vice president of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Canada, represented Inuit. At that meeting, Mr. Trudeau promised to ask Pope Francis for an apology on the Roman Catholic Church's role in running residential schools over the past century.

The new government has reached out to Inuit on other issues as well, most notably on climate change when it invited Inuit leaders to sit on the Canadian government delegation in Paris in December.

Newly elected Nunavut Member of Parliament, Hunter Tootoo became the second-ever Inuk to be named to a federal cabinet post when he was sworn in as Minister responsible for Fisheries, Oceans, and the Coast Guard.

The Prime Minister did not name a minister uniquely responsible for Canada's input to the Arctic Council, as the former government had by naming Leona Aglukkaq to that role. As such, it is assumed this responsibility will be that of the new foreign minister.

ICC Canada President, Duane Smith, met earlier this month with the government's new minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Carolyn Bennett. There will also be an Inuit-only leaders meeting with the Prime Minister that is expected to take place at the end of this month. [Q](#)



Natan Obed, ITK President and Justin Trudeau, Canadian Prime Minister.  
Photo provided by ICC Canada.



Pauline Harvey and Minnie Naylor.  
Photo provided by Pauline Harvey.

## Meet Pauline Harvey, Education Project Director

Pauline F. (Siqupsiraa) Harvey, otherwise known in her home region as Asik, joined ICC-Alaska in November as Education Project Director. Asik is from the Inupiaq village of Noorvik, Alaska and was raised by her paternal grandparents at the fish camp. Asik has served as a K-6 educator for 27 years and 5 years as a K-12 school principal. She most recently served as the UAF Chukchi Campus Director in Kotzebue from 2010-2015. Her passions include harvesting food off the land and spending time with her family and friends. Interests include guitar, crocheting and writing. Asik served on the ICC-Alaska Education Steering Committee representing the Northwest Arctic Region before moving to Anchorage. As a committee member, she was involved in the development of the Alaskan Inuit Education Improvement Strategy that was released in April 2015. ICC-Alaska was awarded a grant from the US Department of Education, Alaska Native Education Program to facilitate the implementation of the Strategy. We are fortunate to have her continue in her new role, leading our efforts to improve Inuit education in Alaska. [Q](#)

*continued from page 3*

education resources and information, promoting Inuit language education and research, encouraging Inuit to fill leadership positions in education, hosting a statewide Strategic Alignment Summit (tentatively set for November 2016 in Anchorage).

Other priority activities and future plans summarized by Kelly included work on promoting the utilization of Indigenous Knowledge, engaging youth in ICC, promoting Inuit health and

well-being and encouraging sustainable economic development in the Arctic.

One activity in the next year that was discussed was the Board was improving communications, internally and externally. The Board approved a request to fund the development of a communications strategy and plan in the next year. The website will also be updated and enhanced in the next year. [Q](#)



## INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL

### ALASKA OFFICE

3900 ARCTIC BLVD,  
SUITE 203  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

PHONE: (907) 274-9058  
FAX: (907) 274-3861  
[www.iccalaska.org](http://www.iccalaska.org)

FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Anchorage, AK  
Permit No. 69

## Quyanaq! Quyanna! Taikuu!

### *Thank you for supporting ICC-Alaska's efforts in 2015!*

Our efforts would not be successful without the generous support received from our contributors. Special thanks for the grants, cash and in-kind donations made this year.

Alaska Humanities Forum	Fred Meyer/Kroger	Oak Foundation
Amazon Smile	Government of Canada	Percy Ballot
Anonymous Donor	Intertribal Agriculture Council	Pew Charitable Trust
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation	Institute of Marine Research	Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group
Arctic Research Consortium of the United States	James Stotts	Roy Ashenfelter
Ann Riordan	June Ballot	Shaun Combs
Community Adaptations and Knowledge Sharing Project (UAF)	June McAtee	Sonya Kelliher Compbs
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc	Kawerak, Incorporated	University of Idaho
Carolina Behe	Kelly Eningowuk	US Department of Education
Denise Michels	Manilaq Association	US State Department
Derek Haviland Lie	Michael Jeffery	Vera Metcalf
Edna MacLean	NANA Regional Corporation	Vivian Korthuis
Exchange for Local Knowledge in the Arctic	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association	World Wildlife Fund
	North Slope Borough	

You too can support our efforts! We are participating in the Pick.Click.Give. Program again this year. When you go online to apply for the State of Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend, you will see an option to Pick.Click. Give. and donate a portion of your dividend to Inuit Circumpolar Council-Alaska. Donations can also be made anytime and as a charitable organization, your donations are tax-deductible! Please visit our website for more information.

# Pick. Click. Give.



[PickClickGive.org](http://PickClickGive.org)

*Inuit Circumpolar  
Council-Alaska  
is happy to be  
participating in the  
Pick. Click. Give.  
program this year!*