

DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN

Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA

Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1-3

ICC Executive Council Meeting • Utqiagvik, Alaska • www.iccalaska.org

April 6

First Alaskans Institute: Indigenous Research Workshop • Fairbanks, Alaska • www.firstalaskans.org

April 11-12

Bethel Decolonization Think-Tank • Bethel, Alaska • www.iccalaska.org

April 7-9

Alaska Native Studies Conference • Fairbanks, Alaska • www.alaskanativestudies.org

April 24-27

International Conference on Arctic Science: Bringing Knowledge to Action • Reston, Virginia • www.amap.no

May 10

I AM INUIT Exhibit Event at the UAF Art Gallery • Fairbanks, Alaska • www.iaminuit.org

May 11

10th Annual Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting • Fairbanks, Alaska • www.arctic-council.org

May 13

I AM INUIT Exhibit Event at the Anchorage Museum • Anchorage, Alaska • www.iaminuit.org

May 22-23

ICC Alaska Education Steering Committee Meeting • Bethel, Alaska • www.iccalaska.org

June 5-6

Arctic Council Shipping Best Practice Information Forum • London, England • www.pame.is

June 6-8

NIHB 8th Annual National Tribal Public Health Summit • Anchorage, Alaska • www.nihb.org

June 6-12

Ninth International Congress: Arctic Social Sciences: People and Place • Uppsala, Sweden • www.arcus.org

June 13-14

Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials • Helsinki, Finland • www.arctic-council.org



Summit Participants. Photo by Vernae Angnaboogok

Circumpolar Inuit Economic Summit

By ICC Alaska Staff

At the first international gathering of Inuit in June 1977 at Barrow, Alaska, the Committee for Original Peoples' Entitlement (COPE) offered up two resolutions concerning cross-border trade among Inuit.

The first resolution called for a sub-committee with representatives from each region to investigate and report on possible new economic opportunities and trade routes. It stated that the discovery of oil and gas and our ownership or royalties provided capital needed for reinvesting in and promoting Inuit industry.

The second resolution called for a sub-committee on energy to investigate the feasibility of a circumpolar Inuit energy policy. These two resolutions were tabled nearly forty years ago by the Inuvialuit of western Canada.

In 1993, ICC held an Inuit Business Development Conference in Anchorage, Alaskan to discuss: trade and travel; strengthening economic ties and; natural resources and economies. In 2011, ICC held an Inuit Leader's Summit on Resource Development in Ottawa, Ontario. There have been other meetings over the years, regional and international, on our business and economic cooperation.

This year, ICC hosted a Circumpolar Inuit Economic Summit to explore cross-border collaboration among Inuit businesses. The summit was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage March 28-30, where approximately 90 participants representing 30 organizations gathered from across the Arctic. The primary goal of the summit was to build support for an International Inuit Business Organization to carry forward meaningful collaboration benefitting our people.

ICC Alaska President, Jim Stotts, opened the meeting noting that "with the tremendous and growing interest in the Arctic it is time to gather together and discuss options for how Inuit businesses might take the next step – the step across our borders".

Participants heard from experts in the fields of hydrocarbons, air and marine transportation, mining, telecommunications and investment regarding the status and future potential for development in the Arctic. Each country

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President's Message

James Stotts

The Arctic Ocean – A World Heritage Site?

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recently published a document titled, *Natural Marine World Heritage in the Arctic Ocean - Report of an expert workshop and review process*.

This publication created a bit of a stir within Alaska amongst our people, primarily because we didn't realize it was coming, or how it was developed. It was a surprise. Once again, Inuit were not consulted.

This is nothing new, it's not unusual for outsiders to presume to know what's best for us. It seems to be hard for them to just ask us what we think. We have consistently said that we want to be involved in decisions that affect us from start to finish; the so-called "**meaningful engagement**."

IUCN and UNESCO's World Heritage Centre were supported in the publication of this document by the: National Resource Defense Council; World Wide Fund for Nature; Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation; Oceans 5; and an anonymous donor. I wonder who that anonymous donor was?


It's puzzling that these organizations did not consult with us, or at least let us know what they were up to. After professing that they understand and believe Indigenous peoples input is critical to any discussion on the future of the Arctic, they just moved ahead on their own, without us, without our input.

We are fed up with outside organizations presuming to know what's best for us; pretending to be on our side. It's time for these groups to stop speaking on our behalf, we can speak for ourselves.

It's also time to shine the spotlight on those UN agencies with responsibilities to ensure the concerns of Indigenous peoples are addressed, to ensure the principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are adhered to. The current situation is beyond ridiculous, these UN agencies are under the influence of the large special interest groups. The pendulum has swung too far in that direction.

The report initially identifies seven areas in the Arctic Ocean that should be priorities for inscription on the World Heritage List. The report goes on to suggest seven more areas for consideration in the very near future. When these fourteen areas are combined, the Arctic Ocean becomes one big World Heritage Site. An ocean swallowed up for conservation only for conservation sake, without regard for the people directly affected and doing little to reverse global climate change. This is unacceptable.

To make a long story short, if the recommendations from this report were to become reality, nearly all of the marine areas used by Inuit would come under World Heritage status. In fact, most of the Arctic Ocean would come under World Heritage status, including the international waters of the Central Arctic. If you don't believe me, take a look at the workshop report maps. You can download it at www.whc.unesco.org and draw your own conclusions.

I respectfully call on the eight Arctic states to reject this one-sided World Heritage approach and begin discussions with the Arctic Indigenous peoples on the future of the Arctic. It's time to get back to the principles of sustainable development. It's time to get back to a holistic and balanced approach. 

Ivory Ban Threatens Inuit Culture and Livelihood

By Vera Metcalf, Vice President – ICC Alaska

California, Hawaii, Washington, New Jersey, and New York are states that recently passed bans on the sale, possession, use of ivory. The intent of the law is to curb unlawful trafficking and poaching of elephants and rhinoceros, but the laws also include walrus ivory and fossilized mammoth and mastodon ivory legally acquired and sold by Alaska Natives.

These laws are in direct violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). The MMPA enacted on October 21, 1972 protects Alaska Native rights to harvest certain marine mammals such as walrus and use marine mammal products such as ivory in handicrafts or artwork to be sold in the United States. Still, other states are considering adoption of similar laws. Although Federal ruling finalized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service states these laws apply only to ivory from African elephants, the passing of state legislation carries the potential for long term and devastating impacts on the U.S. legal ivory market similar to what happened with the seal ban in the European Union.


The Eskimo Walrus Commission's (EWC) Executive Committee met in June 2016 to address the unlawful bans and passed Resolution 2016-01 "...Opposing the Inclusion of Walrus, Mammoth, and Mastodon Ivory in African Elephant Ivory Ban Laws." Kawerak, Inc., (a regional non-profit tribal corporation) met soon after and took further action by supporting EWC's Resolution. Other regional communities and organizations subsequently passed supporting resolutions including ICC Alaska and ICC Executive Committee, and IPCoMM (Indigenous People's Council on Marine Mammals). A working task force has also been organized and created a Strategic Plan to educate the public and stop the unlawful ivory ban legislation from continuing.

Politically, Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK), who chairs the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife subcommittee, held a field hearing October 20, 2016 at the Alaska Federation of Natives



Walrus Hunting. Photo courtesy of Charles Ellanna

2016 convention in Fairbanks, Alaska. Recommendations to not include walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory in the on-going bans were presented. Further, Representative Neal Foster (D-AK) sponsored House Joint Resolution #8 "Alaska legally acquired ivory use exemption" and Senator Donny Olson (D-AK) introduced Senate Joint Resolution #4 urging "Alaska Congressional delegation to introduce legislation to provide exemption of legally acquired ivory."

Kawerak Inc, EWC, ICC, and others will continue to advocate for protecting the livelihood of Alaska Native and Inuit people who rely on marine mammal products such as walrus ivory. Work will continue to establish protection and promote the rights of indigenous people to pursue their economic, social and cultural traditions and customs. Please continue to wear and purchase ivory with pride, and educate people on the importance of walrus, mammoth and mastodon ivory as a subsistence resource, a traditional way of life, and a non-threatening use of resources from the species. 

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Remembering Henriette Rasmussen (Inna)

By Dalee Sambo Dorough



Photo courtesy of Dalee Sambo

March 3, 2017 was a sad day in Inuit history. Deservedly, the flag of Kalaallit Nunaat was at half-mast, a sign of respect for and recognition of someone that played a crucial role in the political life of the state.

As a young girl, it was clear that Henriette would make a mark in this world. The daughter of Axel and Margrethe (nee Møller), she was born on June 8th, 1950 in Qasigiannnguit. The eldest of a family of eight, she attended grammar school in Nuuk, junior

college in Nykøbing Falster, Denmark, and later earned a Teaching degree from Zahle's Seminarium in Copenhagen in 1975 and a Journalism degree from Greenland School of Journalism in 1985.

While in Denmark, Henriette found her passion in the ideals and importance of youth rebellion and the new women's movement and made a name for herself in the Young Greenlanders Council by addressing the injustice and maltreatment that Danish and Greenlandic women lived under. Both causes melded together in her early participation in the Aasivik summer gatherings as well as the launch of "Kilut", a feminist paper. On March 8th, 1975, she became the first Greenlandic woman to address women's rights at a women's political rally in Copenhagen. Fittingly, she was laid to rest on March 8th, 2017, International Women's Day.

Henriette not only played an important role in Greenlandic politics, but also displayed Inuit diplomacy internationally, starting as one of the original delegates to the first gathering of Inuit in June of 1977 in Barrow, Alaska. This is where I first met Henriette and formed an instant and deep friendship.

Her education and training was applied in her work as a teacher, broadcaster and as the CEO of Greenland Publishing House known as Atuakkiorfik, and with her position as Program Manager for Kalaallit Nunaata Radioa.

Henriette's contributions in the early days of the UN were pivotal. Significantly, as the Minister for Social Affairs, she spoke on behalf of the Danish government at the 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights and proposed the establishment of what later became the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

In addition, a post was established by agreement between the Danish Foreign Ministry and the International Labor Organization and Henriette was named the first Advisor on Indigenous Affairs for the ILO in Geneva and served in this post from 1996-2000. Her leadership at the ILO reflected strength and compassion for those suffering horrific human rights violations and conditions throughout Africa. Against


all odds, she worked to gain African state ratifications of ILO C169. Though not as fruitful as one would hope, she befriended many Indigenous peoples in the countries that she visited.

Her fluency in Spanish, French and English became a major asset in favor of Indigenous peoples in other parts of the world. Her work as an excellent journalist demonstrated how crucial it is to link the local with the global and she managed to do so, especially in relation to her reporting of issues facing Arctic Indigenous peoples.

As the Honorary French Consul, she helped to improve relations in a post that few really knew about or understood, serving in this capacity until her passing. Other distinctions include The Danish Royal Medal from the Kingdom of Denmark; the Republic of France "Ordre National du Mérite" in 2012 for her work with Indigenous Women's Rights, environment and her long cooperation to promote the Inuit language at the Paris Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilization.

Her friend and colleague, Hjalmar Dahl stated "I remember when Inna...moved to Utqiagvik for a longer period in Alaska. Their stay in Utqiagvik had a great influence on the future cooperation among the Inuit. She established close ties between us Inuit and strengthened our cooperation."

KNR colleagues of Henriette, who were also close friends, were deeply affected by our collective loss and stated that, "despite recent years of repeated harsh treatments for her cancer, Henriette Rasmussen always returned to her work on the radio as soon as the forces allowed it. In 2015, she left the post of radio boss to Masaana Egede, but this did not stop her from putting new initiatives in the lake for KNR."

Inuk leader, politician, diplomat and above all, a strong, beautiful Inuk woman with a beautiful soul. My deepest condolences to her partner until 1997, "Puju" Carl Chrisian Olsen and their two children, son Inumineq and daughter Navaranaaq, with husband Angu and daughters Vivia and Naasu as well as her long-time partner Wilhelm Malling, and all her friends across the world. Though her legacy will live on through her children and grandchildren, I will truly miss her. I loved her dearly and will never forget her. 

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www.iccalaska.org

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Chair's Message

J. Okalik Eegeesiak

Qaqqaliaq - Observing Changing Times in a Changing Arctic

Time seems to be moving very fast, like the changes we are witnessing in the Arctic. It is time to "qaqqaliaq". To qaqqaliaq means to go up on a hilltop and look out beyond to observe the environment. We need to slow down and observe where we are and where we want to

go. Observation is at the core of our culture. It is something we have practiced for millennia and a part of what makes us an incredibly strong and adaptable peoples. Inuit, from a very young age, are tasked with going outside first thing in the morning, every morning, to observe the weather. This is an important part of growing up in Inuit culture. We are taught to start our day by observing.

We have made it through another winter and as we await spring we must pause to remember those we lost this winter. The Inuit world lost some leaders to age and illness namely Edward Itta and Henriette Rasmussen. In January we lost 3 Inuit hunters to unsafe ice near Whale Cove, and we lost too many youth to mental illness and suicide. It is for all these members of our family that we continue to work for our people, our communities and our Nunaat.

ICC just met in Utqiagvik on the shores of the confluence of the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas for our biannual Executive Council Meeting. These meetings are, in essence, one of our ways to "qaqqaliaq" - to observe, reflect, to take stock and plan for the upcoming months. One thing is certain, the marine environment, the ice and its wildlife connects us -- whether it is the Bering Strait, the Beaufort or Chukchi Sea, the Arctic Ocean, Baffin Bay or the north Atlantic, we are a marine people.

Since my last message in January we have all been busy. As the Pikialasorsuaq Commission last fall travelled south from community to community listening to the people who live on or near the Pikialasorsuaq and who depend upon it for their food security and cultural connections, I deeply felt, from the core, Inuit share a wealth of culture, of family, of our one culture and one Arctic. We truly are one people, who share one Arctic ecosystem.

As the Inuit led Pikialasorsuaq Commission continues its important work to re-establish Inuit led management and monitoring of the unique maritime polynya shared by Canada and Greenland and central to Inuit food security on both sides of the polynya – we celebrate and re-celebrate our connections to each other. The Commission has developed a set of key principles and recommendations including the above and has also called for accessible transit across the Pikialasorsuaq for Inuit. The Commission's report is now in its second draft and we hope to make it public in late June

after returning to the communities this spring to verify with knowledge holders the Commission's key principles and recommendations.

One of the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group initiatives was called the Rising Sun initiative. The final Rising Sun meeting and ICC workshop was held in Iqaluit, in the middle of March. This was the third and final meeting of the Rising Sun initiative, a follow-up from the mental wellness project completed during Canada's two-year tenure as council chair from 2013 to 2015. The two-day workshop reviewed communities' understanding of suicide in the Arctic, hearing from researchers, youth and community experts. Suicide rates for Inuit in Canada are 11 times the national average and among the highest in the world.

The objective of the RISING SUN initiative was to develop a set of common definitions, measurements and standards to help healthcare workers in different systems better serve their communities, while helping policy makers measure progress, monitor the implementation of interventions, and identify local challenges to implementation. It is clear that mental wellness and suicide prevention is an urgent priority. The network that has been created must be sustained and the work that remains must always be centred on community needs. The workshop was also used as a platform for Finnish delegates towards the recently developed Mental Wellness Strategy for Saami Peoples and towards the Finnish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council between 2017 - 2019. ICC also took advantage of the audience and meeting to hold a Circumpolar Inuit Steering Committee meeting that is working to advance Inuit health concerns. A report will be published before the chairmanship of the council transfers from the U.S. to Finland in May.

A main event at the end of March was the ICC Inuit Economic Summit in Anchorage. Economic development done right means equity. It means long-term sustainability. It means that economic development is not simply done for the peoples of the Arctic, it is also by the peoples of the Arctic. Finally, and maybe most importantly, it means that economics and finances do not take priority over social and cultural issues and that social issues do not in turn take priority over environmental issues. This is the cascading order of priority which has been all too often imposed upon the Arctic, our peoples and other developing areas of the world, to the detriment of the people who live here. These are discussions we had a chance to pursue in depth at the ICC Economic Summit in Anchorage last week and the partnerships and understanding created through this Summit will I am sure benefit all Inuit.

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Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee Meets in Iqaluit

By ICC Canada Staff

Circumpolar Inuit health has been a priority for ICC for the last decade, beginning with the identification of Inuit health and wellness as a priority at the 2006 ICC General Assembly in Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska. The Utqiagvik Declaration instructed ICC, in cooperation with national and circumpolar partners, to insist that Arctic governments support healthy communities initiatives. As a result of these directives, ICC established the Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee (CIHSC) in 2008 to direct ICC's health advocacy work.

At the following General Assembly in 2010 in Nuuk, Greenland, Inuit jointly instructed ICC to advance Inuit health and well-being by implementing the 2010–2014 Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy; to increase its knowledge of Inuit health and well-being; and to promote these issues through relevant international bodies.

In 2014, the General Assembly held in Inuvik, Canada, reiterated these previous directives on health and also added new directives. The 2014 Kitigaaryuit Declaration included a directive for ICC to advocate for a continuum of culturally-relevant mental wellness and substance abuse programs and supports across Inuit Nunaat, including traditional/cultural and clinical approaches, which engage at the individual and community level. These directives were related to the recognition in the Kitigaaryuit Declaration that Inuit health and well-being is a matter of ongoing priority in Inuit Nunaat, and that supporting mental wellness among Inuit is central to addressing a wide range of health issues.


A significant activity this year was a strategic planning session which took place in Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada on March 2nd

and 3rd. The development of this short-term Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy for 2017 - 2018 focused on Inuit mental health and wellness and is consistent with the emphasis on Inuit mental health and wellness in the Kitigaaryuit Declaration.

Objectives for the next year currently identified include to:

- Improve communications with communities and the general population to promote a unified Inuit voice and raise awareness of Inuit health as a shared circumpolar priority
- Improve Communications between the Steering Committee and ICC Executive Council
- Improve youth involvement within ICC
- Improve communications with Inuit partner organizations in member states
- Raise the profile of health issues in international forums
- Improve integration and participation of all member countries in ICC work on health priorities
- Prepare and implement a strategic plan related to health and wellness

These objectives are still in draft form and will be finalized by both the CIHSC and the ICC Executive Council

The Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee is made up of representatives from each ICC country and meets once a year to discuss Inuit health issues and priorities. Members of the committee are selected by each country office. 

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I would like to bring to your attention a special celebration in Chukotka. Since we last met, the Government of Chukotka Autonomous Region, and the Association of Indigenous Minorities of the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug celebrated the 15th Anniversary of ICC signing a Memorandum of Co-operation to strengthen cooperation on the issues related to the development of indigenous peoples. This Memorandum of Co-operation was based on the principles of mutual respect, integration, and benefit. This is an example of the strength of our ICC family and our membership.

Mr. Hopson is still guiding us. His spirit is with us as Arctic indigenous peoples, and as we reclaim our human rights to this land and our hunting culture. These milestones and celebrations serve as a reminder, once again, of our collective foundation of community, solidarity and strength. Today, we are challenging governments and businesses in courts or tribunals because they or their systems and processes do not plan beyond their mandates, and, I believe, especially because they and their systems and processes have not grown as we have. In a lot of cases, we have outgrown or

adapted and readapted beyond their limitations and we are now challenging them to meet us to where we need to be. Reempowered, to reconciliation, to reconnection, because we are rejuvenated.

We have much work ahead, as always. The next few months will be a busy time attending the Arctic Council Ministerial in Anchorage in the middle of May and engaging with Finland as they assume the Chairmanship. I will be traveling back to the High Arctic communities in Canada to review the Pikialasorsuaq Commission with Inuit. I am also speaking in Finland to the EU and will raise - the issue of seals, sealing, and ivory - we must continue to press the world for our rights to hunt. We will be moving fully into the preparations for the ICC Wildlife Summit in November being hosted by Canada, the Education Summit early 2018 being hosted by Greenland, and yes planning for the next exciting General Assembly to be held in Utqiagvik in 2018.

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

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presented information about the existing businesses in their regions and identified areas of potential cooperation. Verner Hammeken, CEO of Greenland's Royal Arctic Line eloquently stated, "as the Arctic transforms, so the Arctic will transform the world".

Participants agreed to establish an International Inuit Business Council (IIBC) to cultivate genuine business collaboration across the circumpolar Arctic and to carry forward the momentum generated by this initiative in favor of our people.


Participants further agreed to establish an Implementation Task Force (ITF), comprised of two members from each country, to formalize the design of the IIBC, including its organization, bylaws, mapping of potential members in different segments, service catalogue, clear definition of value offered to its members as well as a fee structure and budgets.

The head of the ITF will be appointed by ICC before the end of May 2017 and will see its first task to outline the ITF structure and budgets for completing this work.

It is expected that ICC will formally endorse the launch of the IIBC during the fourth quarter of 2017. This will establish a platform for business cooperation and development that genuinely benefits Inuit at the local, national and international level.

ICC Chair, Okalik Eegeesiak, pleased with the summit outcome stated, "This is the time to reimagine the economies of the Arctic from the Inuit perspective for Inuit by Inuit. We want to be innovative and inclusive in our approach to sustainable business in Inuit Nunaat".

This Summit was made possible in part by our generous sponsors: Arctic Slope Regional Corporation; NANA Regional Corporation; Calista Corporation; ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.; and British Petroleum.

To learn more and to view the Summit Outcome Document, please visit www.iccalaska.org . 



*Vittus Qujaukitsoq, Greenland Minister for Industry, Labor, Trade & Foreign Affairs.
Photo by Vernae Angnaboogok.*



Alaskans caucus. Photo by Vernae Angnaboogok.



Herb Nakimayak, ICC Canada addressing the group. Photo by Vernae Angnaboogok.



*Verner Hammeken, CEO of Royal Arctic Line addressing the group.
Photo by Vernae Angnaboogok.*



Canadians caucus. Photo by Vernae Angnaboogok.



Greenlanders caucus. Photo by Vernae Angnaboogok.

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I AM INUIT Exhibit Events

Wednesday, May 10, 2017, 12:00-1:00 p.m. at the UAF Art Gallery

Saturday, May 13, 2017, 12:00-1:00 p.m. at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmusen Center



Photos by Brian Adams

I AM INUIT is an Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Alaska project that seeks to connect the world with Alaskan Inuit (Inupiat, Yup'ik, Cup'ik, and St. Lawrence Island Yupik) and the Arctic, through common humanity.

Follow at www.iaminuit.org

