

# DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 6-7 Arctic Council CAFF Board Meeting • Bethel, Alaska • www.caff.is

#### September 12-14

Arctic Council AMAP Working Group • Reykjavik, Iceland • www.arctic-council.org September 14-15 Arctic Council Task Force on Arctic

Arctic Council Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation • Helsinki, Finland • www.arctic-council.org

September 17-20 Arctic Council PAME Working Group Helsinki, Finland • www.pame.is

September 18-20 Arctic Energy Summit 2017 • Helsinki, Finland • www.arctic-council.org

September 21-22 Arcitc Council SDWG Working Group Meeting • Inari, Finland • www.sdwg.org

September 23-24 ICC Executive Council Meeting • Nain, Labrador • www.iccalaska.org

October 19-21 Alaska Federation of Natives • Anchorage, Alaska • www.nativefederation.org

October 24-26

Senior Arctic Officials Meeting • Oulu, Finland • www.arctic-council.org

November 6-8

Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Management Summit • Ottawa, Canada • www. inuitcircumpolar.com

November 7-9

Arctic Council ACAP Working Group • Brooklyn, New York • www.arctic-council.org November 27-29

Arctic Council SDWG Arctic EIA Workshop • Utqiagvik, Alaska • www.arctic-council.org





Eben Hopson receives a gift from Saami Council representative. Photo courtesy of ICC Canada

# Eben Hopson Welcomes ICC Delegates to Barrow

By ICC Alaska Staff

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference was founded in Barrow, Alaska under the leadership of Eben Hopson, the first Mayor of the North Slope Borough. Reprinted below is the welcoming address that Eben gave to the first delegates to the ICC on June 13, 1977.

"Thank you. Thank you, Willie, (Willie Hensley) for the fine introduction, I see that you haven't lost your touch.

The hopes with which I have looked forward to this day are difficult for me to properly express. My being here to welcome you today means that I have survived a personal ordeal for which I praise God. Serious illness causes a man to examine himself closely. Now that I am well, I know in my heart that we will do important work here this week. I believe that we are blessed here in Barrow for the conference this week.

We Inupiat live under four of the five flags of the arctic coast, one of those four flags is badly missed here today. But at least in Denmark, Canada and the United States it is generally agreed to enjoy certain aboriginal legal rights as indigenous people of the arctic. It is important that our government agree about the status of these rights, if they are to be uniformly respected. To secure this agreement we must organize to negotiate for it. This will take circumpolar community organization for the status of our rights as Inupiat is necessarily the core of any successful protection for our mutual arctic environment security.

Our language contains the memory of 4,000 years of human survival through the conservation and good management of our arctic wealth. Ours, is the language of the very environment that challenges environmental safety of existing offshore technology. Our language contains the intricate knowledge of the ice that we have seen no others demonstrate. Without our central involvement, there can be no safe and responsible arctic resource development.

We have the right and duty to negotiate with our governments the terms under which we can safely share our subsurface wealth with others more in need

# ICC ALASKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# **President's Message**

#### James Stotts

Remilitarizing the Arctic....

Forty years ago, delegates to the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference in Barrow, Alaska (Utqiagvik) passed Resolution 77-11, *Peaceful and Safe Uses of the Arctic Circumpolar Zone*, it reads, in part...

a) that the Arctic shall be used for peaceful and environmentally safe purposes only, and that

there shall be prohibited any measure of a military nature such as the establishment of military bases and fortifications, the carrying out of military manoeuvers, and the testing of any type of weapon, and/or the disposition of any type of chemical, biological or nuclear waste, and/or other waste. Further, present wastes be removed from the Arctic;

b) that a moratorium be called on placement of nuclear weapons;

c) that all steps be taken to promote the objectives in the above mentioned.

1977 was during the height of the Cold War and we weren't able to host delegates from Chukotka. After the fall of the USSR in the early 1990s, there was a period of calm, and relationships became better for a while. This period was prompted by Gorbachev's policies of glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring). People used to say, the **Ice Wall** has come down. The future looked bright for peace.

During this time: Chukotka joined ICC resulting in positive solidarity between Chukotka and other Inuit; the Beringia visa-free travel zone was established; ICC signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug and the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka. The Arctic Council was formed. It seemed Inuit were about to embark on a long and peaceful era of cooperation. Now, it seems another Cold War is on the horizon. Have we come full circle?

Resolution 77-11 also spoke to environmental impacts of militarization. In 1977, the Distant Early Warning System (DEWLINE) was still in operation. Since then, there's been a cleanup to remove much of the junk and hazardous waste left over from that era. Today, in some parts of our homeland there's uranium mining going on. We can see there are changes since 1977 on what Inuit think when it comes to the issues addressed in 77-11. The times they are a changing.

Today, there are frequent news stories about reoccupying or building new military facilities in the Arctic. There are statements from some Arctic nations about protecting their northern borders from terrorists and drug traffickers and the need for more people and assets to carry out this mission. Military jets are playing chicken over Arctic skies. It seems every other week there's another seminar or conference being hosted by some prestigious think tank on the topic of Arctic security.

Some view militarization as an economic opportunity with jobs and infrastructure development. With growing interest in resource development, shipping and commercial fishing, Arctic governments feel they must protect these activities. In the U.S. and other Arctic countries there is an increasing Coast Guard presence. All of this needs infrastructure. How will this affect our way of life and our communities?

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## **ICC Executive Council Meets in Utqiagvik**

#### By ICC Alaska Staff

The Executive Council (EC) met April 1-3 in Utqiagvik, formerly known as Barrow. Nuka Kleeman from Greenland did not attend due to participation in the Greenland municipal elections. Elena Kaminskaya from Chukotka also could not attend. The meeting was held at the North Slope Borough Inupiat History, Language, and Culture Center.

Before the meeting opened, there was a moment of silence to note the passing of former ICC Alaska President and North Slope Borough Mayor, Edward Itta.

After approving the agenda and minutes, the meeting moved on to reports from the country offices; here are some excerpts from the reports.

**Chukotka:** One highlight during the reporting period was the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between ICC, the government of Chukotka, and the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka. ICC Chukotka has been busy with language and culture projects and events throughout their communities.

**Canada:** On February 9th, the "Inuit Nunangat Declaration on Inuit-Crown Partnership" was signed by Inuit leaders and the Prime Minister. Inuit members of the Partnership Committee are ITK (National Inuit Organization) and the four Inuit land claims settlement regions. ICC Canada, Pauktuutit (National Inuit Women's Association), and the National Inuit Youth Council are observers to the partnership.

**Greenland:** Last November a new national government was established in Greenland. The previous coalition government composed of the Siumut, Atassut and Demokraatit political parties failed. The Siumut, Inuit Ataqatigiit and Partii Naleraq political parties have formed the new government. This new coalition government is the largest in recent history. Next Greenland national elections will be held in 2018 at the latest.

Alaska: Last November Donald Trump was elected U.S. President with uncertainty regarding possible changes for Alaska and the Arctic. Two new oil discoveries were announced for the North Slope, one at 4 billion barrels and another at 1.2 billion barrels. Renewed discussions have started up over oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

**2018 General Assembly (GA):** Interested community members and a delegation from the North Slope Borough, including Mayor Harry Brower, presented their planning efforts. The NSB hosted the 2006 ICC GA and is accustomed to holding large gatherings. The NSB confirmed it would host the GA July 16-20, 2018 in Utqiagvik. They presented two proposals for the conference theme: "One Inuit, For Inuit" and "Atautchimukta" (Let's Unite as One). The EC will make the final decision on the theme.

Two planning committees have been created, one for logistics and another for programs. The logistics group is led



Executive Council meets at the Inupiat History, Language and Culture Center. Photo by Vernae Angnaboogok.



*Executive* Council poses under the Whale Bone Arches. Photo by Vernae Angnaboogok.

by Eilene Adams while the programs group is being led by Kelly Eningowuk. Terms of reference for each group were explained and representatives from the four ICC Alaska regions were announced. There was a discussion on the responsibilities of the two planning groups, scheduling and fund raising. There will be two ongoing fund raising efforts, one for ICC Alaska and another for the GA host.

The EC had the opportunity to visit venues where different events will be held; the setup for lodging and food service was reviewed. The NSB is on top of planning at this early stage and overall the EC felt confident about efforts so far.

Arctic Council (AC): Most of the discussion centered around the upcoming "Week of the Arctic" and the Ministers Meeting in Fairbanks which is highlighted elsewhere in

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# The Finnish Program – "Exploring Common Solutions"

#### By ICC Alaska Staff

Timo Soini, the Finnish Minister for Foreign Affairs, presented his country's program for the Arctic Council at the 10th Ministerial meeting recently held in Fairbanks. They have chosen the slogan *"Exploring Common Solutions"* for their chairmanship.

**<u>GOALS</u>**: Finland aims to explore common solutions for the future of the Arctic in three areas.

**UN Paris Climate Agreement:** 1) mitigation of climate change; 2) adaptation and strengthening resilience; 3) raising awareness of Arctic climate issues

**UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development:** 1) globalizing Arctic region - global solutions; 2) creating a toolbox for Arctic cooperation; 3) regional implementation of sustainable development goals

**Economic Perspectives:** 1) the Arctic - an important hub of the 21st century; 2) prosperity, livelihood, social progress; 3) sustainable economic development - resilient communities

**<u>PRIORITIES</u>**: Finland has set four priority areas that it wants to focus on during its chairmanship.

**Environmental Protection:** 1) adequate protection measures; 2) focusing on biodiversity conservation, pollution prevention, mitigation and adaptation; 3) putting recommendations into practice

**Connectivity:** lifeline for human activity, prerequisite for economic development; 2) building on the Council's work on telecommunications in cooperation with the Arctic Economic Council; 3) focus on communication technologies for the Arctic

**Meteorology:** 1) essential for safety - land, sea, air traffic and climate research; 2) improving observation network and monitoring; 3) focus on meteorological cooperation between Arctic states and the World Meteorological Organization

**Education:** 1) small populations, long distances, cultural diversity, minority languages; 2) key to creating sustainable

development and building resilience; 3) focus on education specialists in cooperation with the University of the Arctic

**WORK AREAS:** Finland will pursue work in four thematic areas during its chairmanship.

**Environment and Climate:** 1) implementation of UN Paris Agreement; 2) further work on short-lived climate pollutants; 3) feeding Arctic assessments into the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; 4) UN Aichi biodiversity targets guiding work on biodiversity; 5) hosting Environment Ministers meeting on climate and biodiversity

**The Seas:** 1) continue Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation; 2) implement the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan; 3) cooperation on search and rescue; 4) enhance marine oil pollution preparedness; 5) implementation of the International Maritime Organization Polar Code

**The People:** 1) strengthen economic and social progress of Arctic populations; 2) traditional and local knowledge to improve Arctic understanding: 4) health - one health, mental wellness, occupational safety; 4) education - providing positive prospects on preventing marginalization

**Strengthen Arctic Cooperation:** 1) build on previous work to include: continuity, transparency and effectiveness; 2) Arctic Council Secretariat provides support and capacity while enhancing Council visibility; 3) Observers: valuable for Council work, conduct observer review and encourage engagement; 4) long-term strategic planning

ICC believes the Finnish program is ambitious, broad and relevant and we are committed to working with the Finnish team to accomplish their program. ICC and the other permanent participants were consulted early and often by Finland and we feel that we had a part in developing the plan. The plan is further explained at <u>www.formin.finland.fi</u>.

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Heating up the rhetoric is not good for one's peace of mind. It's especially unsettling for us living in the Arctic. Is the Arctic on the verge of becoming a zone of confrontation and conflict? How will an Arctic remilitarization affect us? Perhaps, Inuit and other Arctic indigenous peoples need to sit down and discuss this issue which has great potential to impact us all. We need to make our concerns and voices heard, pro and con, before we lose the opportunity to present our views.

> Check Out Our Website **www.iccalaska.org** "DRUM" is now online!

I would like to suggest that the topic of Arctic security and the remilitarization of the Arctic be a topic of serious discussion within the ICC, including at our upcoming General Assembly. I suggest we invite representatives from the other Arctic indigenous organizations to be a part of these discussions. This is a topic that we must confront and address. Perhaps it's time for a new 77-11. Q



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# Chair's Message

#### J. Okalik Eegeesiak ICC 40th Anniversary: Four Countries – One Voice

ICC was initially envisioned by the respected Inupiaq leader, and first Mayor of the North Slope Borough, Eben Hopson. This was a time when oil and gas exploration brought promises of economic opportunities and improving standards of living but at the cost of the marine wildlife

Inuit depended upon. Hopson felt Inuit wisdom and visions for the future would be able to navigate a way to protect the rights of Inuit to sustainably harvest marine mammals critical to Inuit food security in the face of pending oil and gas development. He understood that the Inuit voice was stronger through circumpolar solidarity. He also knew that together, Inuit would make certain no Inuit community would be left behind. His vision came to life in 1977 at the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference General Assembly held in Barrow, Alaska.

On June 15th, 2017 the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) celebrated 40 years of service in advancing the Arctic and Inuit issues internationally. During this time ICC has become one of the most respected International Indigenous Organizations and a trusted and compelling voice for Inuit on Arctic global issues.

Over the intervening years ICC has come together 12 times with strong Inuit leadership and visionaries. The ICC Chairs have included Hans Pavia Rosing, Mary Simon, Eileen McLean, Caleb Pungowiyi, Rosemarie Kuptana, Aqqaluk Lynge, Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Patricia Cochran, Jimmy Stotts, and myself, Okalik Eegeesiak. The General Assemblies have always gone beyond the political, environmental, social and economic issues Inuit face to use these opportunities to celebrate Inuit culture through dance, poetry, food and fashion.

In 1980, Hans-Pavia Rosing then Chair of ICC held the ICC General Assembly in Greenland and the ICC Charter and Bylaws were adopted. It was after Glasnost that Inuit from Chukotka in the former Soviet Union officially became full members of ICC and Inuit were now truly united under four flags. At the 1992 General Assembly in Inuvik, Northwest Territories the Chukotkan Inuit delegation arrived to a thunderous applause.

In 1983, ICC was granted Consultative Status at the United Nations under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Over the years ICC has used this UN status to speak on behalf of Inuit on a wide variety of issues including the creation of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2000 where the Arctic was recognized as a region providing Inuit and Saami a seat on the Forum. ICC was also instrumental in the negotiation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2007.

In 1996 ICC was central to the creation of the Arctic Council and ensuring a place at the table for Indigenous Peoples. ICC is one of the six Permanent Participants to the eight member state Arctic Council. The Arctic Council is a central vehicle through which ICC advances the priorities of Inuit in a circumpolar context.

In more recent years, ICC has adopted two substantive declarations relating to the vital relationship between Inuit and the land. The Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic was adopted in 2009 and the Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat in 2011.

July 16-19, 2018 at Utqiagvik, Alaska, on the shores of the confluence of the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, is where Inuit from all four countries will come together again for the 13th ICC General Assembly. This General Assembly will, once again, see 66 delegates take stock of where Inuit are and what Inuit want. Policies and strategies will be developed that will provide the roadmap for the 2018-2022 term under Alaska's Chairmanship.

Community health and wellness, mental health and suicide prevention, language protection and development, Inuit arts and culture, climate change, hunting rights, wildlife and marine management, economic development, indigenous rights, shipping, food security and contaminants are some of the many issues ICC deals with. Youth issues will feature prominently in this upcoming General Assembly as it will be the youth that will create the future for our communities. In 1992, ICC published the visionary document "Principles and Elements for a Comprehensive Arctic Policy" which was updated in 2010 as the "Inuit Arctic Policy".

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. These milestones and celebrations serve as a reminder, once again, of our collective foundation of community, solidarity and strength. That the Arctic is not a frontier. That the Arctic has always been a gateway. That, first and foremost, the Arctic is a community.

Stay tuned as we are now moving fully into preparationss for the 2018 General Assembly, the ICC Wildlife Summit in Canada next November, and the Education Summit in early 2018 which is hosted by Greenland.

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

Aingai.

# Arctic Council Updated

#### By ICC Alaska Staff

A mass of people descended on Fairbanks the week of May 8th to attend the "Week of the Arctic" and the Arctic Council (AC) Ministerial Meeting. There were numerous events all week long, culminating with the Ministers Meeting, where Finland assumed the AC chairmanship from the U.S.

Week of the Arctic Events: Monday: "I Am Inuit Exhibit (ran all week); Association of International Education Administration Forum; Arctic Broadband Forum (ran two days); Arctic Economic Council Meeting (ran two days); Community Healing and Wellness Workshop; Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Reception; Arctic Seas in a Time of Change Dialogue.

Tuesday: International Arctic Assembly; Lessons from Norway - Developing a Dynamic Economy in the Far North Dialogue; Alaska's Arctic - Lives and Livelihoods Reception; "We Breathe Again" - Documentary Film.

Wednesday: "I Am Inuit" Reception (Fairbanks); AC Showcase; Community-Based Monitoring Experience Exchange Workshop; The Northern Edge of Science Seminar; Arctic Highlights Forum; Perspectives in Circumpolar Reindeer Production Dialogue/Reception; Lessons from Iceland - How to Re-invent an Economy Dialogue; AC Opening Reception.

Thursday: Arctic 2030 – Projecting Challenges Facing Arctic Maritime Operators Workshop (ran two days); Arctic Mayor's Roundtable; Aerospace Opportunities in a Changing Arctic Workshop; One Health Concerns in a Changing Arctic Workshop (two days); We Need to Sustain the Global Climate System Workshop; Geophysical Research Opportunities in the Arctic Workshop; AC Ministers Meeting; AC Closing Reception.

Friday: Innovate Arctic Workshop; Circumpolar Arctic Film Festival.



ICC Delegates at the 10th Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting. Photo courtesy of Arctic Council.



ICC participating at a side event during Week of the Arctic. Photo courtesy of Arctic Council.

Saturday: "I Am Inuit" Reception (Anchorage); Arts, Crafts & Culture Exposition (two days); Local and Northern Foods - Northern Inspired, Globally Edible.

It seemed that all venues were well attended with much community interest. The ICC and other Inuit organizations were well represented at the different events. If was great to meet fellow Inuit from Canada, Greenland and Chukotka, as well as people from all over the world. The Week of the Arctic was truly an international event.

Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting: It's well known that the U.S. position on global climate change has changed with the election of President Trump. U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson insisted on a number of last-minute changes to the Ministerial Declaration.

This necessitated an urgent negotiating session of the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs). During the meeting, a small group of protesters burst into the room to protest President Trump's policies. Fortunately, the SAOs were able to negotiate language acceptable to all. However, disappointment and irritation from the other Arctic states was evident during the meeting despite best efforts of the U.S. to put a positive spin on things.

The U.S. stated that it was still in the process of finalizing its position on climate change and the U.N. Paris Accord. Clearly the Fairbanks Declaration was not as strongly worded as others hoped it would be. In all likelihood, this issue will be revisited during the Finnish chairmanship.

Sadly, the actual Ministerial meeting seemed almost anticlimactic. Speeches from the Ministers and Indigenous Heads of Delegation were limited to three minutes and the meeting was brief as the U.S. Secretary of State prepared to leave town early. All documents related to the meeting can be found at <u>www.arctic-council.com</u>.

Since the conclusion of the Ministers meeting, President Trump has announced that the U.S. will be pulling out of the U.N. Paris Accord, resulting in much criticism from the international community.

The Finnish chairmanship held an executive session in Helsinki, Finland June 13-14 to outline its program and to set schedules for future meetings and activities. The next SAO meeting will be held in Oulu, Finland October 24-26.



Arctic States and Permanent Participants Heads of Delegation. Photo courtesy of Arctic Council.

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this issue of DRUM. It was noted that the U.S. still has not clarified its position on climate change. There were short reports on the work of the six AC working groups and three AC task forces that are in the process of winding down their work in preparation for the Ministers Meeting.

High Seas Fisheries: There was an update on the progress of efforts to create an international agreement prohibiting commercial fishing in the international waters of the Arctic Ocean until fish stocks have been evaluated and a fisheries management regime is in place. Negotiations are still ongoing and there will be more information in future issues of the DRUM. ICC representatives are part of the national delegations of the U.S., Canada and Denmark. Countries involved in the negotiations are: Canada, China, Denmark, Iceland, Japan, Norway, South Korea, Russia and United States. The European Union is also involved.

**Pikialasorsuaq Commission:** The Commission has completed firstround meetings in five Canadian communities (Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay); and six Greenland communities (Siorapaluk, Qaanaq, Savissivik, Kullorsuaq, Nuussuaq, Upernavik).

The Commission has prepared a draft report, key principles and draft recommendations. The plan is to return to the communities for consultation and then begin the implementation phase. The concept of Inuit led indigenous management areas is a way forward to protect those marine areas vital to the success of Inuit society and culture. The "Implementation Framework" to monitor and manage this and future Inuit led Marine Protected Areas is a model that may be used in the future for other Inuit managed marine areas in the Arctic. The final report is expected in late June. Future developments to be reported on in DRUM. **United Nations:** The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) will be held April 24 to May 5 in New York City. The theme is "Tenth Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: measures taken to implement the Declaration." Another topic to be discussed is on the topic of empowering indigenous women and youth. There will be a discussion on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Dalee S. Dorough was replaced as the Arctic member of the UNPFII by Anne Nourgam from the Sami Council on January 1st.

The UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) will be held July 10-14 in Geneva, Switzerland. The major issue for consideration at the meeting is modifying and improving the EMRIP mandate to allow increased participation of indigenous peoples from 5 to 7 seats.

Follow up of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) 2015 Outcome Document calls for a discussion to establish permanent observer status within the UN system to allow indigenous peoples and nations direct and meaningful participation. Hopefully this will be considered during the UN General Assembly in fall 2017.

ICC participated in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change last November as an official observer, as part of the Canadian delegation and with the Sami Council as part of the Arctic delegation to the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change. An important outcome of COP22 was with respect to the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform. The ICC and Sami Council have put forward a suggestion for the platform's structure

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*Owen and Vernae visit the Arctic Palm Tree. Photo by Kelly Eningowuk.* 



*Executive Council and Staff under the Whale Bone Arches. Photo by Vernae Angnaboogok.* 

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and function. It's been decided to take an incremental and participatory approach to developing the platform.

There was a discussion about applying to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for consultative status. No decision was made. ICC Canada indicated that it is willing to seek involvement in the IMO through participation in the Canadian delegation to IMO and view this as an opportunity to learn about the IMO and its processes.



Tatiana Archigina enjoying a beautiful cold day. Photo by Vernae Angnaboogok.

**ICC Summits:** The Circumpolar Inuit Economic Summit was held at the end of March in Anchorage, Alaska and was reported on in the last issue of DRUM.

The Inuit Wildlife Management Summit is planned for Ottawa, Canada in November 2017. The Summit was mandated by Article 40 of the Kitigaaryuit Declaration. The goals of the Summit are to: share wildlife management practices in each country; Identify challenges and opportunities for greater access to resources at all scales (local, national, international); Develop common and collaborative Inuit positions and strategies for an ecosystem approach to wildlife management (nationally and cross-borders). The EC reviewed plans for the Summit presented by ICC Canada. The Summit Advisory Committee will meet to further develop the program.

The Inuit Education Summit is planned for Nuuk, Greenland in February 2018. The EC reviewed documents prepared by ICC Greenland, including: background information, suggested themes for discussion, draft agenda and logistical information. The Summit is expecting approximately 40-50 participants.

ICC would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the warm hospitality shown by the community of Utqiagvik. Everyone enjoyed the facility and community tours and dinners. Quyanaq! Quyanna! Taikuu!

The next ICC Executive Council meeting will be held during September in Nain, Nunatsiavut.

**13th ICC General Assembly** *"Inuit – The Arctic We Want" July 16-19, 2018* Utqiagvik, Alaska



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of it. My hope for this conference is that we can organize to begin these negotiations. Arctic resource development has placed special pressure upon us to organize now to meet our responsibility to the land.

I am particularly pleased that we have the Saami delegation with us today. The Saami have developed the kind of relationship with their government that we seek for our North American Inupiat community. Working with our people in Greenland and Canada the Saami have been active in organization of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples to which the settlement of land claims has become worldwide movement. We must elevate our Inupiat arctic claims to the status of international effort. To secure equal justice all across North American arctic.

Little known in America is the status of Greenland's homerule negotiation. Greenland's future is important to all of us here. Homerule in Greenland must uphold North American standards for homerule and democratic selfdetermination. Our people in Greenland are 40% of our entire Inupiat community. Greenland's homerule negotiations are an important part of our Inupiat land claims movement.

Through these negotiations, Denmark can become both an old and new world nation, and Greenland can become our link with European Economic Community. We are only 100,000 but by working together we can be strong far beyond our number. Our strength must lie in homerule government, the ultimate result of our land claim movement will be the development of strong local government, all across the North American arctic.

The defense of the world's arctic environmental security must rest upon the strength of local homerule government. The motivation behind the North Slope's work in planning and conduct of this conference should be clear to all. Environmental security of our long municipal coast lines depends upon the strength of homerule government in Canada and Greenland. Only when there is effective homerule government for our people in Canada and Greenland will we be able to really trust any offshore operation in the Beaufort Sea or in the Davis Strait. I am confident that this conference will lay the foundation upon which we will be able to build this trust in the methods through which we are to share our oil and gas reserves with others.

Barrow is a seed of homerule in the North American arctic, we are under constant attack by the oil corporations at Prudhoe Bay. I am hoping that we can plan peace with oil industry at this conference. The oil industry should regard strong local government in the arctic to be a good business investment and a necessary result of all arctic resource development. We badly need to be able to cooperate and plan with the industry but there is no communication between us except as it takes place between our lawyers engaged in litigation between us. I am hoping we can turn this around this week.

You are here in Barrow during our Nalukatak for our whaling festival. You will be entertained by dancers from across the arctic, you will be taking part in a great celebration. We are glad you came. Welcome home to Barrow, Alaska. Thank you."

Forty years later, this powerful and prophetic welcome still rings true. Those first 55 delegates from Alaska, Canada and Greenland started a movement that continues; the issues and concerns raised at the first ICC gathering remain relevant today. As we reflect upon ICC's accomplishments over the past forty years, let's pause and take time to celebrate the ICC. It's always been about developing our way of life and ensuring our culture is healthy and vibrant into the future. It's always been about being Inuit.





First ICC meeting in old Barrow High School. Photo courtesy of ICC Canada.

Greenland Delegates at first ICC meeting. Photo courtesy of ICC Canada.



The Founder of ICC – Eben Hopson. Photo courtesy of ICC Canada.



Inuit Circumpolar Council

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Kimberly Pikok.

## Kimberly Pikok, Summer Intern

We are happy to introduce Kimberly Pikok, who joins our office as a summer intern. She is 19 years old and is Inupiaq and Caucasian. She was born in Knoxville, Tennessee but has lived in Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska all of her life. She currently attends the University of Alaska Fairbanks studying Wildlife Biology and Conservation, hoping to pursue a career that helps rural Alaska communities with land and animals so the communities could keep practicing their traditional way of life. Kimberly is a former Arctic Youth Ambassador, and thanks to the program, she found her passion advocating for Indigenous rights and bringing awareness of issues that the Arctic is facing. On her free time, she enjoys listening to music and learning more about the artists that creates the music. Kimberly loves to learn about her Inupiaq culture by listening to stories, reading, and learning how to speak and write in Inupiaq. She also enjoys spending time with her father and older brother out on the tundra whether it is for hunting or if it is just to ride around and enjoy the weather. Kimberly has been working on developing a storyboard for a children's Inupiaq language and culture educational program during her internship. Her internship is made possible through a grant from the North Slope Borough.



Michelle Slowooko.

# Michelle Ngusighmii Slowooko, Summer Intern

Michelle (Ngusighmii) Slwooko is a 23 year old Siberian Yupik from Gambell (Sivuqaq), Alaska. She joins our office through our partnership with the First Alaskans Institute Summer Internship Program. She was born in Nome, Alaska and was raised in Gambell to the age of 14/15. Michelle then attended Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka, Alaska for four years. She is entering in her last year at the University of Alaska Anchorage pursuing a Bachelor's of Science degree in Natural Science along with a minor in Mathematics. Michelle is also a part of the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) where in the summer she works as a Youth Peer Mentor and assists in the high school camp programs. In her free time, Michelle enjoys running, rock climbing, swimming, knitting, and arts/crafts. She also enjoys spending time with friends out in the mountains or on the water. During her internship she is working on two projects, one related to contaminants/pollutants and the other on energy issues. Michelle is a great addition to our office!

