

Hope and Resilience in Suicide Prevention Seminar Report

By Elizabeth Saagulik Hensley



Photo: Youth Participants at the Hope and Resilience Seminar in Nuuk, Greenland. L to R: Yvonne Morehouse (Canada), Elizabeth Hensley (Alaska), Stina Berthelsen (Greenland), Winter Kuliktana (Canada), Jesse Unaapik Mike (Canada). Photo by Jesse Unaapik Mike.

The Hope and Resilience in Suicide Prevention Seminar (www.hopeandresilience.gl) took place in Nuuk, Greenland, on November 7-8. The seminar was planned in conjunction with the Government of Greenland, the Arctic Council and the Inuit Circumpolar Council and brought together experts, practitioners and youth from across the Arctic to recommend improvements in suicide prevention programs in the circumpolar north.

Inuit youth from Alaska, Canada and Greenland were in attendance, as well as a Saami youth representative from Norway. Stina Berthelsen, President of ICYC-Greenland planned and facilitated the youth track of the Seminar. Greta Schuerch, ICYC Chair led the fundraising effort to send an Alaska youth delegation. With funding from Teck Cominco and NANA Regional Corporation, I was asked to attend the seminar. Other Alaskans in attendance were George Provost of Maniilaq Association, Laresa Syverson of the Aleut International Association, Professor James Allen of the University of Alaska Fairbanks and Commissioner Bill Hogan of the Alaska Department of Health and Human Services.

The youth track of the seminar meeting began with presentations on suicide statistics, current challenges in respective communities, and highlights of existing prevention programs and strategies. It followed with crafting of recommendations to improve prevention measures. The youth then joined the main seminar participants and presented their policy recommendations.

Following the youth presentation at the main seminar, international youth and policymakers sat together in a unique panel discussion, asking each other questions relating to suicide prevention. This was followed by questions from the audience. The highlight of the panel was the composition of the panel itself, as well as a statement by Commissioner Hogan that the State of Alaska supports programs that use hunting and fishing as therapeutic treatment for people in need. This statement affirms that the Alaska Native way of life is meaningful in creating healthy communities and that the best solutions often stem from within. This echoed the sentiment articulated throughout the seminar by the youth delegation that a strong Inuit or Saami identity and sense of worth is vital in reducing suicide rates. The youth also highlighted the value of positive role models in suicide prevention.

continued on page 7

DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN
Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA
Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 8-12 • Arctic Council AMAP Working Group Meeting • San Francisco, California • www.amap.no

March 3-5 • Arctic Council SDWG Working Group Meeting • Copenhagen, Denmark • sdwg.arcticportal.org

March 3-5 • Arctic Council PAME Working Group Meeting • Copenhagen, Denmark • pame.arcticportal.org

March 16-19 • State of the Arctic Conference • Miami, Florida • www.soa.arcus.org

April 14-18 • Arctic Leaders Summit • Moscow, Russia

April 15-19 • Arctic Science Summit Week • Nuuk, Greenland • <http://www.assw2010.org>

April 20-22 • Kawerak Regional Conference • Nome, Alaska • www.kawerak.org

April 28-29 • Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials Meeting • Ilulissat, Greenland • www.arctic-council.org

June 28-July 2 • ICC General Assembly • Nuuk, Greenland • www.inuit.org





ICC ALASKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ICC Executive Council

Edward Itta, President

Chuck Greene, Vice President

North Slope Region

Eugene Brower

(North Slope Borough)

George Edwardson

(Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope)

Richard Glenn

(Arctic Slope Regional Corporation)

Northwest Arctic Region

Marie Greene

(NANA Regional Corporation)

Jackie Hill

(Maniilaq Association)

Martha Whiting

(Northwest Arctic Borough)

Willie Goodwin Jr.

(Elder Representative)

Bering Straits Region

Melanie Edwards

(Kawerak, Incorporated)

Roy Ashenfelter

(Bering Straits Native Corporation)

Lee Ryan

(Youth Representative)

Southwest Region

Vivian Korthis

(Association of Village Council Presidents)

A Message from ICC-AK President

Edward Saggan Itta



Looking Back, Looking Forward


The end of the year is always a good time to take stock of our recent achievements and set our course for the upcoming year. As we close the book on 2009, I look back on the year as a time of change with a goal of stability.

ICC hosted the first Indigenous People's Global Summit on Climate Change in April, where the focus was on the application of traditional knowledge to ecological change. Climate change threatens to disrupt the lives of indigenous people around the globe, and our vast experience with the natural world offers practical and profound lessons in adapting to climatic shifts. The summit represented a global effort by indigenous people to reach out to the scientific community and national and international policymakers with insights gained from millennia of traditional ecological experience.

Effective adaptation to climate change will require strong policy initiatives at all levels of government, and Inuit have been steadfast in demanding participation in the policymaking realm since we have so much at stake. Our activities during the past year emphasized Arctic sovereignty and an approach to sustainable development that honors the unique dependence of our people on a healthy Arctic ecosystem.

Our ICC-Alaska Elders Council met in Kotzebue last spring and discussed a proposal aimed at increasing the role of elders and youth in the General Assembly while eliminating separate elders and youth conferences. The ICC Executive Council later approved the change, along with a new requirement that each country's delegation to the General Assembly include at least one elder and one youth.

In another structural change, ICC installed Jim Stotts as Acting ICC Chair until the chairmanship rotates to Greenland at the General Assembly meeting in Nuuk in July. Kelly Eningowuk stepped up to fill the Executive Director role at ICC-Alaska. Together we will continue to work toward a greater Inuit role in the process of Arctic governance based on our historic identification with the region and our cultural dependence on its enduring health.

Happy New Year to you and your loved ones. May you be blessed with strength and filled with joy in the coming months. 

Check Out Our Website!

www.iccalaska.org

"DRUM" is now online!

Inuit Represented at International Arctic Fisheries Symposium

By ICC Alaska Staff




Photo: Duane Smith, ICC Canada President speaks at the International Arctic Fisheries Symposium. Photo by Lene Kielsen Holm

ecosystem, including humans. Symposium attendees also seemed to agree on the need for baseline studies on fish stocks and other species, including marine mammals in the Arctic Ocean in both national and international waters, before any commercial fishery is considered. A balanced approach to any development in the Arctic was a key message.

Lene, Duane and Willie gave Inuit perspectives on the issue and were very well received. They stressed that Inuit need to be meaningfully involved in fisheries management as long-term stewards of the environment and resources. They also conveyed the message that sustainability and subsistence use are priorities for Inuit. In his keynote address to the symposium, U.S. Ambassador Balton agreed that indigenous peoples need to be involved in decision-making.

Reflecting on the symposium, Duane said, "I think it was very timely and needed. It was a very good beginning to what should take place more often and on a consistent basis. I would like to see the scope of the symposium broadened from fisheries to the entire Arctic ecosystem to ensure protection of the fragile Arctic environment and resources that Inuit depend on."

This meeting was the first of its kind, and we expect that as pressures mount in the Arctic, there will be more talks on international cooperation in fisheries. ICC will continue to monitor this issue and will advocate for Inuit involvement. 

ICC Alaska Board Meet in Anchorage

By ICC Alaska Staff

Despite busy schedules during the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention week, the Board of Directors met in Anchorage for its first regular face-to-face meeting in a couple of years. Due to travel costs and conflicting schedules, the Board generally meets by teleconference.

Much of the meeting centered on administrative items, but there was also extensive discussion of fish and game management and subsistence. Jim Stotts, ICC Chair, reported that he plans to push forward on mandates related to hunting and fishing in the Utqiagvik Declaration. Stotts will encourage the country offices to begin talks at the regional level with hunters and fishers and to conduct a review of the current management regimes in each country. The Board expressed support for this effort.

Special guests Duane Smith, President of ICC Canada, and Lene Kielsen Holm, Director of Sustainable Development and Environment of ICC Greenland, were in Anchorage for the International Arctic Fisheries Symposium and also attended our Board meeting. Following the Board discussion on subsistence, Duane said that Inuit in Canada are experiencing the same threats to

continued on page 7

A Roadmap Forward: The Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment

By Denise Michels


The University of Alaska's Institute for Applied Circumpolar Policy held a workshop in Fairbanks in October titled, "Considering a Roadmap Forward: The Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment." International participants engaged in a vigorous review of policy issues identified in the Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment Report 2009.

Workgroup participants came up with implementation strategies, identifying stakeholders that should be involved, and provided a realistic timeline. As an ICC representative at this meeting, I conveyed the message that the recommendations under Section II of the report, "Protecting Arctic People and the Environment," are vitally important. As a permanent participant, ICC will be at the table and in consultations at the local level regarding laws, regulations and policies being framed by the national and international bodies, as these will have a direct impact on our way of life.

As the Mayor for the City of Nome and the Transportation Director for Kawerak, Inc., a regional non-profit that provides services in the Bering Strait region, I gave a report on the economic opportunities that Nome's port is witnessing with the increase in Arctic shipping. Since 1990 the Port of Nome had 34 dockings and at the end of 2009 we had 301 total dockings. Of the vessels using Nome's port, three successfully navigated through the Northwest Passage in 2008 and four vessels completed the trip in 2009. There was also an increase in ports of call tied to the

Chukchi Lease Sales in 2008. Our message is clear – we are witnessing an increase in Arctic Ocean vessel traffic; this increase is happening now; and we need to be proactive instead of reactive.

I was a member of the Infrastructure Workgroup and we created a roadmap for the four recommendations under "Section III. Building the Arctic Marine Infrastructure" of the report. After we drafted an implementation strategy, identified stockholders and established deadlines, it was apparent that it will take major coordination to get the implementation strategies through various NGO's, national and international governments and agencies. Dr. Mike Sfraga, Director of the Geography Program and Associate Dean in the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, will provide our draft report to participants in the coming weeks.

I hope that ICC will play a strong role in facilitating discussions in the Arctic states/nations to ensure Indigenous communities will have information that enables their leaders to be well informed and participate in the process. ICC has a diverse membership with a depth of knowledge that should be tapped to help reach the best results. As the Mayor for the City of Nome and Transportation Director for Kawerak, I will continue to advocate that these recommendations move forward, and I look forward to working with ICC in the review, analysis and implementation of these strategies. 



Speakers at the ICC organized "Inuit and Arctic Indigenous Peoples Day" side event at COP 15. L to R: Mary Simon, ITK President, Aqqaq Lyng, ICC Greenland President, Tatiana Archigina, ICC Chukotka President, Floyd Roland, NWT Premier, Olav Mattis Eira, Saami Council Vice President, Kuupik Kleist, Greenland Premier, Eva Aariak, Nunavut Premier, Jim Stotts, ICC Chair, Rodion Sulyandziga, RAIPON Director, Lars Moller, Arctic Council SAO Chair. Photo by ICC Alaska.



Report from ICC Chair, Jim Stotts

COP15 – Lessons Learned

COP 15 started with great expectation and ended with great disappointment. The whole world knows that an international agreement to come up with a plan to address global climate change was not reached. The process

ended up being a wasted effort for many.

At times it felt like there was a war going on at the Bella Center in Copenhagen where the conference was being held. It's a complicated war fought on many different levels, poor vs. rich, developed vs. undeveloped, indigenous vs. non-indigenous, government vs. non-governmental organizations. It's a war of ideologies and in the end nobody won.

As we waited for three hours in the cold to register for the meeting, we were occasionally approached by a group proclaiming that the solution to climate change is for the world to stop eating meat. Imagine an inuk trying to survive without meat. At one point there was a proposal for a 50-year moratorium on any development in the Arctic. Apparently someone didn't realize there are people living in the north. By the end of the conference we couldn't even get into the Bella Center due to high security and limited space.

ICC got some bad press during COP15. It was said that Inuit were divided, losing our culture and credibility, in danger of losing the moral high ground. These statements were made in the context of resource development vs. CO2 emission levels. I say Inuit occupy the moral high ground. No one has a greater right to determine the Arctic's future than we do.

It's no secret that Inuit have been moderately successful developing our own resources and creating our own forms of governance. We should not be ashamed of this. We have always attempted to ensure that our economic development is sustainable and conducted in an environmentally sound manner. We attempt to hold other developers in the Arctic to the same high standards.

It's ironic that Inuit now find ourselves being asked to scale back on our economic development because of global warming. We did not create global warming. I hope Inuit will be treated fairly, especially during internal talks with our nation states on the subject of setting emissions levels. I hope Inuit will not be harmed economically.

Our marine mammals have become pawns in the fight between oil and gas development and the large well-funded environmental organizations as a result of global warming and loss of sea ice in the Arctic Ocean. We depend on these animals for much more than simple nutritional need. The polar bear, walrus and seal have already been targeted. Could the whales be next? I caution Inuit about getting too close to these environmental groups. They are pushing an agenda that threatens our hunting and food security.

I want to leave you with two things to consider. First, Inuit probably should stop waiting for the rest of the world to solve global climate change. We need to start implementing climate change adaptation strategies now. Any delay just puts us that much further back. Second, are Inuit prepared to sacrifice their culture and identity for the sake of solving the global climate change crisis? Sometimes it seems the outside world is asking us to do just that, to save them. Inuit cannot save the planet, but maybe, we should start working together to save ourselves. [O](#)



ICC Hosted COP 15 Side Event on "Using Traditional Knowledge in Climate Change Decisionmaking." Photo by ICC Alaska

Reporting from the Senior Arctic Officials Meeting

By ICC Alaska Staff

The Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials (SAO's) met November 12-13 in Copenhagen, Denmark. All Arctic nations and permanent participants were represented. China, Japan, South Korea, Italy and the European Union Commission were admitted as ad-hoc observers.

Climate Change: Participants discussed the Council's outreach plans for the December United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15). It was decided to present two products at side events during COP15, "The Greenland Ice Sheet in a Changing Climate" (GRIS) and "Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic" (SWIPA). There will be an Arctic venue December 12-18 at the North Atlantic House in central Copenhagen.

SAO's approved "The Short-lived Climate Forcers" (SLCF) task force terms of reference. The task force will use the Arctic Monitoring Assessment Program (AMAP) working paper on black carbon as its starting point for the project.

Biodiversity: The "Arctic Biodiversity Trends - 2010: selected indicators of change report" was presented and SAO's decided to begin the 30-day comment period on the report. This report is part of the larger "Arctic Biodiversity Assessment" due for completion in 2013.

Human Development: A report on the "Arctic Human Health Expert Group" (AHHEG) was presented and the AHHEG work plan was approved focusing on five areas. A seminar on suicide prevention was held in Greenland as reported in this issue of DRUM.

Oceans: SAO's supported the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment working group (PAME) recommendations for follow-up work on the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) and encouraged the nations to implement the AMSA recommendations.

The "Search and Rescue Task Force" (SAR) was discussed since the SAR instrument is a major product for presentation to the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in 2011.

Russia gave an update on its activities under the Arctic Council projects "Arctic Rescue" and "Development of safety systems in implementation of economic and infrastructural projects in the Arctic".

PAME gave an update on the "Arctic Ocean Review Project" (AOR). The AOR will report on the status of the Arctic marine environment and the global and regional measures in place for its protection. This is a comparative study and inventory based on existing information. The final report will be presented to Ministers in 2013.

Contaminants: The Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) reported that the Project Support Instrument (PSI) is still not operational because some of the required contributors still have not deposited funds. All parties who have pledged contributions were encouraged to do so as soon as possible to make the PSI operational.

Data, Observations and Monitoring: The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) gave a report and SAO's thanked the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group (CAFF) encouraging all parties to support the CBMP.

AMAP made a status report on Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) and SAO's supported the SAON work plan and encouraged all nations to contribute to enhancing Arctic observing networks.

The Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority requested support for an Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure Project (ASDI). There is great interest in having quality maps of the Arctic to use in Arctic Council work. SAO's expressed support but noted that further in-country consultations were needed before accepting the ASDI as a project.

Aleut International Association (AIA) gave an update on the Bering Sea Sub Network Project (BSSN). SAO's welcomed the BSSN as a unique model and fine example of a contribution from a permanent participant. SAO's recommended partnerships with the BSSN to help expand observations on the Russian side of the Bering Strait.

International Polar Year Legacy: At the last meeting in Norway, Ministers supported international coordination to maximize the legacy of IPY. SAO's agreed to ask the working groups to make use of up-to-date research results in ongoing assessment processes. SAO's agreed to support a joint Arctic Council/Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting workshop in June 2010. This workshop will be in conjunction with the Oslo, Norway, IPY Conference.

Working Group Reports: The Arctic Council working groups presented progress reports on projects and outcomes.

Other Business: SAO's listened to reports on: a joint meeting of the 4 Councils of the North; the 12th Ministerial Meeting of the Barents-Euro Arctic Council (BEAC) and the Murmansk International Economic Forum; the Arctic Governance Project; and the University of the Arctic.


The next SAO meeting will be held April 28-29 in Ilulissat, Greenland. For more information on Arctic Council activities please go to www.arctic-council.org.



Sustainable Development Remains ICC's Message

By ICC Alaska Staff

This set of photos appeared in the January/February 1985 edition of The Magazine of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference with an article titled "ICC Executive Council Acts on Oil Development and Shipping Concerns."

At the time, serious concerns were emerging about industrial development in the Arctic. The ICC stance on development has always remained the same. We believe that development is acceptable only if: a) it is sustainable and environmentally sound; b) decision-making involves Inuit in a meaningful way; and c) Inuit derive some benefit from the activity. ICC continues to advance this message today as the Arctic attracts increasing interest from outside industry. 




Hans-Pavia Rosing and James Stotts.



Lars Chemnitz and Arqaluk Lyngge.


continued from page 1

ICYC-Alaska plans to carry the momentum from the Nuuk seminar to Inuit communities in Alaska. While the youth delegates at the seminar acknowledge that policy is important in reducing suicide rates, they find it even more important to develop a strong sense of Inuit identity among individuals and communities. In strengthening this identity, we hope our communities will find self-worth and value that will inspire people to make positive choices and eliminate suicide as an option for handling difficult situations.

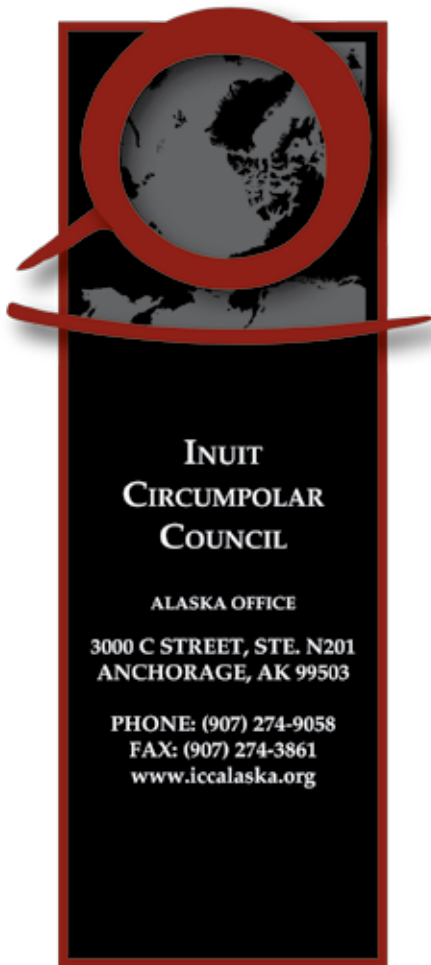
To that end, ICYC-Alaska, with support from, NANA Regional Corporation, Teck Cominco, Maniilaq Association, Native Village of Kotzebue, Northwest Arctic Borough and School District and the Alaska State Council on the Arts, plans to host Generation I, a series of concerts; music, theater, storytelling and kayak building workshops; and conversations that link the importance of I – the self – and the immense strength of the Inupiat for the simple purpose of celebrating life in the Northwest Arctic Region. Look for a report on Generation I in future issues of the DRUM. 

continued from page 3

their hunting and fishing culture. He added that ICC continues to work on this human rights issue at the international level and that ICC's international efforts do affect the daily lives of Inuit at the community level.

Kelly Eningowuk, Executive Director, reported that the audit for 2008 has been completed. This is ICC Alaska's first audit in many years and is a major accomplishment for our organization. Kelly also reported that the ICC Alaska General Assembly planning committee – established last May – has been very busy planning for the upcoming GA to be held this summer in Nuuk. ICC Alaska plans to charter a plane from Anchorage to Nuuk and is in the process of fundraising. A meeting of ICC Alaska GA delegates will be held in Anchorage in February/March. 

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



The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) representing the Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka. ICC Alaska, along with other members, strives to strengthen, protect, and develop Inuit rights in the circumpolar region.

Newsletter Distribution

Save money, save time, save trees by signing up for email delivery of the DRUM.

To save paper and postage, we will be moving away from mailing out hard copies of our newsletter. If you want to continue to receive a hard copy in the mail, please call (907) 274-9058 or email icc@iccalaska.org

Here's a better option. Join our e-mail list and receive the newsletter within moments of its publication. Send a message to icc@iccalaska.org if you want to receive the newsletter by e-mail.

If we do not hear from you, you will no longer receive the DRUM. However, our newsletter will always be available online at: www.iccalaska.org.

Photos

Do you have nice cultural or community photos that you would like to share?

We need photos for our newsletter and website! Please contact us at icc@iccalaska.org

