

DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN
Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA
Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1-3
 CAFF Working Group Meeting • Akureyri, Iceland • www.arctic-council.org

February 7-11
 Alaska Forum on the Environment • Anchorage, Alaska • www.akforum.org

February 9-11
 Kivgiq Messenger Feast • Barrow, Alaska • www.north-slope.org

February 15-17
 PAME Working Group Meeting • Oslo, Norway • www.arctic-council.org

February 16
 Arctic Health Ministers Meeting • Nuuk, Greenland •

February 22-24
 Kawerak Bering Strait Regional Conference • Nome, Alaska • www.kawerak.org

February 22
 ICC Executive Council Meeting • Ottawa, Ontario • www.iccalaska.org

February 23-24
 Inuit Leaders Summit on Resource Development • Ottawa, Ontario • www.iccalaska.org

March 15-17
 Arctic Council SAO Meeting • Copenhagen, Denmark • www.arctic-council.org

March 22-24
 CAFF Experts Workshop on Arctic Sea Ice • Vancouver, British Columbia • www.arctic-council.org

April 25-29
 Stockholm Convention COP 5 • Geneva, Switzerland • chm.pops.int

May 12
 Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting • Nuuk, Greenland • www.arctic-council.org

May 16-27
 UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues • New York, New York • www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfi/index.html



Strategic Planning Participants, L to R: George Edwardson (Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope), Carl Weisner (Northwest Arctic Borough), Caroline Cannon (Maniilaq Association), Richard Glenn (Arctic Slope Regional Corporation), Kelly Eningowuk (ICC-AK Executive Director), Marie Greene (NANA Regional Corporation), Jim Stotts (ICC-AK President), Roy Ashenfelter (Bering Straits Native Corporation), Eugene Brower (North Slope Borough), Melanie Bahnke (Kawerak, Inc.), Vera Metcalf (ICC-AK Vice President), Elizabeth Hensley (NANA Regional Corporation) and Beverly Eliason (ICC-AK Administrative and Finance Director). Photo by ICC Alaska Staff.

Board Conducts Strategic Planning By ICC Alaska Staff

The Board of Directors recently met over two days to set priorities and develop implementation plans in a strategic planning session facilitated by Lori Henry, independent consultant originally from Kotzebue. This was the first ever comprehensive strategic planning conducted by the Board. Strategic planning was guided by the Nuuk Declaration and focused around the question of: "What can ICC Alaska do that no other organization can do?" Partnerships were also discussed.

The Board decided Hunting and Food Security to be the number one organization priority, directing staff to facilitate the creation of hunter organizations to determine the best way forward on management and access issues related to traditional food resources of Alaskan Inuit. The intent is to develop a new policy proposal with which to approach governments.

The second priority for the organization is to improve education systems for Inuit. The Nuuk Declaration mandates that ICC organize an Inuit Education Summit with the purpose of developing recommendations for improving Inuit education. It is also intended to serve as a forum for sharing best practices. ICC Greenland has indicated that it would like to take the lead in organizing this effort, and ICC Alaska will be working to establish partnerships with Alaska Native education groups and preparing within Alaska for the larger circumpolar summit.

Advancing Inuit interests in economic and resource development decisions is the third priority set by the Board. ICC is hosting an Inuit Leaders Summit on Resource Development February 23-24 in Ottawa to develop policy

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ICC ALASKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vera Metcalf, Vice President

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Richard Glenn
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(Association of Village Council Presidents)

President's Message

Jim Stotts




USA Endorses UN Declaration

On December 16th, President Obama announced that the U.S. government will endorse the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). ICC played a key role for about a quarter of a century in the discussions and negotiations that led to the adoption of the declaration. Now all four nations with Inuit populations are on record as not objecting to the UN declaration.

The President made the announcement at the recent White House Tribal Nations Conference held in Washington, D.C. The Obama administration had announced previously that it was reviewing its position on the declaration last April during the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues sessions held in New York City.

In making the announcement, President Obama stated: "The aspirations it affirms – including the respect for the institutions and rich cultures of Native peoples – are ones we must always seek to fulfill. And we're releasing a more detailed statement about U.S. support for the declaration and our outgoing work in Indian Country. But I want to be clear: What matters far more than words – what matters far more than any resolution or declaration – are actions to match those words. And that's what this conference is about. That's the standard I expect my administration to be held to."

The declaration represents the minimum moral standard for the treatment of indigenous peoples throughout the world. It is also a useful framework to guide government policies regarding indigenous communities and promotes the participation of indigenous peoples in the political processes and decisions that affect them. We firmly believe that the decision of the United States government to endorse the declaration shows the rest of the world that it supports indigenous peoples worldwide. ICC is waiting to see the detailed statement concerning U.S. support for UNDRIP and hopes the U.S. support is without qualifications or conditions.

We have now achieved global consensus on this human rights instrument. Not a single nation in the world opposes the UN declaration. We know that the challenge is in the ongoing implementation and creating the "actions to match" the words of the declaration. This instrument provides crucial guidelines for all political, economic, social, cultural rights of indigenous peoples, including the Inuit of the circumpolar region. This is an important milestone in the history of our people, and hopefully the Arctic rim nations will embrace these standards in the context of our individual and collective rights. 

Check Out Our Website

www.iccalaska.org


"DRUM" is now online!

Inuit Leaders Summit on Resource Development to be held in Ottawa

By ICC Canada Staff

At last summer's Assembly gathering in Nuuk, Inuit delegates expressed concern about the recent surge of interest in mineral resources found in the Inuit homeland. As a result, ICC leaders have scheduled a Circumpolar Inuit Leaders Summit on Resource Development to be held February 23-24, 2011, in Ottawa, Ontario.

As evidenced by the discussion around the Assembly table, delegates from Greenland, Canada, Alaska and Russia felt that this dramatic rise of interest in Inuit resources necessitated an equally forceful response by Inuit themselves. There was also recognition that not all Inuit regions, including their self-government entities and representative organizations, held precisely the same views and promoted the same resource development policies. Much of this discussion was held in the context of the then on-going BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, as such environmental considerations were an important element of the debate in Nuuk. There was further acknowledgment that impact assessment processes across jurisdictions in which Inuit live varied widely. The three topics that will be focused on at the Summit include offshore drilling and exploration, uranium mining and the environmental and social impact assessments processes.

Please look to our next newsletter issue for a report on the Summit. 

Senior Arctic Officials Meet

By ICC Alaska Staff

The Arctic Council (AC) Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) met October 19-20 in Torshavn, Faroe Islands. It was the last full SAO meeting planned prior to the AC Ministerial meeting scheduled for May 2011 in Greenland, where Sweden will take over the AC chairmanship from Denmark. Much of the meeting was devoted to reports from the different working groups and discussions on the status of deliverables to the upcoming Ministerial meeting. Duane Smith, ICC Canada, and Jim Stotts, ICC Alaska, attended. All eight Arctic nations and six permanent participants were represented.

The first day opened up with discussions on administrative issues including a report on a communications strategic plan which was generally supported by all.

Climate change issues included reports on: Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic (SWIPA) Project; Short-lived Climate Forcers (SLCF) Task Force; SLCF's and Contaminants; and UN COP16 in Mexico City. There was lively discussion over what message the AC should make at COP16 since the AC does not speak on behalf of any country and the eight Arctic nations have different positions on what to do when it comes to climate change policies.

Arctic Ocean issues included updates on: Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA); Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) Project; Search and Rescue Taskforce; Behavior of Oil and Other Hazardous Substances in Arctic Waters (BoHaSa) Project; and Arctic Ocean Acidification. ICC brought up two points during this discussion. First, there is a concern

that the AOR Project has little human dimension effort and indigenous people's organizations are barely considered in the project. This shortcoming needs to be corrected to make the AOR a better product. Second, ICC Alaska informed the SAOs of a project it is undertaking with Oceana to map Inuit use of the marine areas. This spatial mapping project will make a valuable contribution to a number of AC initiatives including the AOR and AMSA follow up work.

The second day opened with a focus on contaminant issues including discussions on: Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) Mercury Assessment; UN Environmental Program Global Mercury Negotiations; development of a joint AMAP/UNEP report on persistent organic pollutants and climate change for delivery to the UN COP5. ICC expressed support to the Indigenous People's Contaminant Action Program. ICC also stressed the need for all Arctic states to work towards a binding agreement on mercury as mercury levels throughout the Arctic are escalating at an alarming rate and entering into the ecosystem, including indigenous peoples.

There followed a discussion on the Sustainable Arctic Observation Network (SAON). ICC recognized the value of the network and stressed the need to incorporate traditional knowledge into the databases to make better informed observations and decisions.

Other topics reported on included: Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) by the Conservation of Arctic

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Arctic Council Working Group Updates

By ICC Alaska Staff

Most of the recent working group meetings focused on finalizing deliverables for the upcoming Arctic Council Ministerial meeting to be held May 2011 in Nuuk, Greenland. After the Ministerial meeting, the chairmanship will move to Sweden. Updates were provided on ongoing research and projects that will carry over to the new chairmanship. All working group projects and reports are accepted at the ministerial level. Below is a brief update from working group meetings that ICC attended last quarter.

SDWG

Kelly Eningowuk represented ICC Alaska at the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) meeting in Illulissat, Greenland last October. Anticipated deliverables to be presented to the Ministers include: Report on the Hope and Resiliency Workshop on Suicide; Circumpolar Nutritional Guide; Report on Arctic Energy Summit; Report on the Circumpolar Information Toolkit on Minerals; Oil and Gas for Indigenous Peoples and Northern Communities; EALAT Final Report; and a Report on Arctic Social Indicators II. Completed reports will be posted on the Arctic Council website in the future.

Canada and ICC provided an update on the Arctic languages follow-up work from the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium. Following the scoping study that asked symposium participants and language experts for recommendations on how to move the work forward, ICC Canada compiled the information into a plan. A final proposal will be developed for consideration by SDWG and the follow-up work will continue into the Swedish chairmanship.

An informational presentation was made on plans to update the Alaska Indigenous Languages Map by the University of Alaska. The new version will include indigenous place names and GIS plotted data. The new map will be available at www.uaf/anla/map.

Following the meeting, the SDWG began planning for an Arctic Health Ministers Meeting that will be held in Nuuk in February 2011. ICC will send a delegation to this meeting. Ian Erlich, President of Maniilaq Association, will attend on ICC Alaska's behalf. Please look forward to a report from the meeting in the next newsletter.

CAFF

ICC Alaska's representative to the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group is Taqulik Hepa, Wildlife Director for the North Slope Borough. Beverly Eliason, Administrative Director, also attended the last CAFF meeting with Taqulik to learn more about the Arctic Council and its working groups.


Taqulik and Beverly reported that an update on the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment was provided. Phase 1 has been completed with the release of the Arctic Biodiversity Trends-2010: Selected Indicators of Change Report. The report will be presented to Ministers as a deliverable. Phase 2 of the assessment, the scientific report, is also currently underway and is expected to be completed in 2013. Phase 3 of the report will consist of a policy recommendation document that is also slated for completion by 2013. The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment is a project of interest to ICC because it provides a description of the current state of the Arctic ecosystem, creates a baseline for use in assessments of Arctic biodiversity, and is intended to be used to guide future work of the Arctic Council in this area.

Another key project updated was the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP). CBMP is a network of scientists and local resource users working together to enhance monitoring aimed at improving detection and reporting of important trends in biodiversity and to inform management decisions. A series of Expert Monitoring Groups, including a Marine Expert group, are being activated, and have been tasked with developing long term monitoring plans. The Pan-Arctic Protected Areas Monitoring Plan is a project under CBMP. The group is currently developing a background paper and a workshop is scheduled to be held in Anchorage in early 2011.

EPPR

Wendie Schaeffer, Deputy Director of the Public Services Department in the Northwest Arctic Borough, attended the last Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response (EPPR) working group meeting on ICC Alaska's behalf. This was the first time ICC Alaska has sent a representative to EPPR. The Arctic Council's mandate for the EPPR working group is to deal with the prevention, preparedness and response to environmental emergencies in the Arctic. Members of the working group exchange information on best practices and conduct projects like the development of guidance and risk assessment methodologies, response exercises and training. EPPR's current work focuses on oil and gas transportation and extraction, and on radiological and other hazards. In 2004, EPPR was directed to expand its mandate to include response to natural disasters.

One highlight from the meeting, Wendie noted was that the Search and Rescue Task Force, co-led by the United States and Russian Federation, was in the process of negotiating a legally binding Memorandum of Agreement for search and rescue coordination in the Arctic. Since the meeting, the agreement has been signed.

We are happy to have Wendie represent ICC at this working group and look forward to future involvement in EPPR. 



Chair's Message

Aqqaluk Lynge, ICC Chair

ICC HELPING CHILDREN

Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Chukotka... hereby direct ICC to strongly encourage all Arctic states to fully implement the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (The Nuuk Declaration)

One of the most important mandates given to ICC by Inuit delegates from across the Arctic at the General Assembly last year was for us to use the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to help our Inuit children have a better life.

As ICC Chair, I take this mandate seriously and it is my hope that by the time of the next ICC General Assembly in 2014, we will have accomplished much in our struggle to make the world a better place for our children and youth.

While it is not the job of ICC to deal with the acute needs of neglected children in crisis — a job much better done by Inuit-centred social agencies — it is ICC's job to use international and other human rights instruments to make life better for Inuit at home. Working to help Inuit children through the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and through national human rights and other legal instruments, will do much to avert crises down the road. How can this happen? Well, let's look at forced relocations of Inuit as one example. All Inuit regions have some experience with being told to move without warning in their recent history. For example, Chukotka Inuit were forced to move because of the Cold War. In the 1950s, Inuit in Nunavik were forced to move thousands of miles to the high Arctic because the Canadian government wanted to exercise sovereignty, and prove to the world that Ellesmere Island was 'theirs'. Also in the 1950s, the Inuit of the far north of Greenland (the Inughuit) were evicted because Denmark and USA made a deal to build Thule, the American air base in the middle of the Inughuit's rich hunting grounds. In every single case of forced relocation, there are major psychological effects on the children. Documented evidence, without a doubt, shows that the children of the children who were forced to move also continue to be affected. As painful as these issues are, by addressing them in an appropriate manner in appropriate forums, things do change for the better.

Immediately after the ICC General Assembly last year in Nuuk, the ICC head office, along with ICC Greenland, went to work on three matters dealing with the rights of children in Greenland. And on January 12th of this year, we submitted our report to the Danish Committee on the Rights of the Child highlighting the forced relocation of Inughuit, as well as two other child-focussed matters. In particular, the report

presented the following critical issues facing children and youth in Greenland:

- *Juvenile Justice and double penalty facing Inuit children in Danish institutions*
- *Discrimination of children born out of wedlock*
- *Denial to children their indigenous identity: the Thule case*

The following is a summary of the three issues we reported on in our submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC):

1. *Juvenile justice and double penalty*

In the context of the justice system, ICC affirms that the best interest of the child implies that children should not be deprived of their family, cultural or linguistic background if they are suspected and convicted of a crime. Therefore, ICC urges the *European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)* to express concern over the transfer of Inuit youth to serve sentences in an alien environment. ICC further urges the State consider alternative arrangements for such children.

Various case studies have been reviewed to illustrate the potentially damaging effects of removing youth from their Greenlandic environment and placing them in Danish institutions to either wait in detention or remand or to serve out their sentences in environments that are culturally and linguistically isolating. Moreover, these practices may prove to be further detrimental to the mental state of individuals convicted of serious crimes. As noted by the CPT, the present system of holding Greenlandic prisoners at Danish Institutions, has certain undesirable effects that could be avoided if such prisoners were able to serve their sentences in Greenland. It can be argued therefore, that juvenile prisoners are serving double penalties due to the limited contact with their families, native land and cultures in addition to their legal punishment.

2. *Discrimination of children born out of wedlock: "The legally fatherless"*

"The legally fatherless" refers to people born out of wedlock both before and after the entry into force of the 1962 law for Greenland on the legal status of the child. Prior to 1963 and 1974¹ respectively, there was no legal basis in Greenland to establish paternity, and children could be left without a father, or the right to know their social origin and identity. Basically, legal discrimination exists between different groups of fatherless children in Greenland, discrimination that is influenced by Danish laws dating from 1908 regarding children born out of wedlock. Because Denmark itself abandoned such laws in 1938, there are two different

¹ Refers to the dates that the 1962 Law came into force in West (1963) and North (1974) Greenland

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legal applications for Denmark and Greenland regarding 'fatherless' children. Such laws have resulted in differential treatment, sorrow, shame, problems with self-identity, esteem and associated psychological problems.


Although requests to address the differentiation of the 1962 law application between Greenland and Denmark have been made, the requests have not been realized, which in ICC's eyes, perpetuates a discriminatory distinction between children born in and out of wedlock. Moreover, the legal status of children born out of wedlock must be equal to those born within in the context of Danish Law, European Law and overall Human Rights Law.

3. Denial of indigenous identity of indigenous communities in Greenland impacting the right of children to practice and develop their culture and language: The Thule Case

The Thule people, or Inughuit, have been the original, uncontested, occupants of the Northwestern part of Greenland, or the Thule District, even during the time of Danish colonization and sovereignty. Nonetheless, the Inughuit were eventually denied their fundamental rights and severely affected by the establishment of the USA Thule airbase in 1951, agreed upon between Denmark and the United States of America. This was done with no prior informed consent or consultation with the Inughuit people. The airbase, originally built on traditional hunting territory, was expanded and the central community was displaced. Subsequent land acquisitions further alienated the Inughuit

people and led to a clear violation of indigenous and human rights. Regarding the Rights of the Child, such displacement infringed upon Article 30, which affirms that the State must ensure that a child belonging to an ethnic or linguistic minority or one of indigenous descent, has the right to enjoy his or her own culture and identity in a community with other members of his or her group.


Therefore, it is imperative that the State and the Courts respectively recognize the *Inughuit's* separate and unique identity so they may enjoy their traditional land rights and exercise their rights to revitalize their cultural traditions and languages. Furthermore, children must be protected against assimilation, and be able to develop their own cultural identity. Moreover, children must be able to vindicate their traditional economies and practice and maintain their ethnic and linguistic diversity.

ICC needs to continue to focus its work, and fulfill the mandate given to it by the Inuit delegates in Nuuk last year. While the above three examples are Greenland-focussed, it is my intention, as ICC Chair, to encourage and work with ICC offices in Chukotka, Alaska, and Canada to address similar critical issues in their regions. In this way, ICC will have helped social workers and social agencies in their job of dealing with children on the ground, and ultimately make the Inuit world a safer and happier place for our children, and our children's children. 

Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group; Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (ASDI); International Polar Year (IPY); AMAP's strategic framework; 9th Conference of Arctic Parliamentarians; and reports from each of the working groups.

Finally, there was a brief update on the Arctic Environment Ministers Meeting that took place last summer, followed by a discussion on a possible Arctic Health Ministers Meeting. ICC welcomed this idea and suggested the Health Ministers

meeting be held under the auspices of the AC to ensure coordination and permanent participant involvement.

During concluding remarks, ICC noted that shorter term assessments are necessary for real time responses that address issues and improve the wellbeing of the arctic peoples in a timely fashion. It was further noted that there was no specific health update during the meeting and that food security should be placed on the agenda in future AC discussions. 

**To learn more about the Arctic Council
and its work please go to
www.arctic-council.org**

IUCN Workshop Report

By ICC Alaska Staff

Vera Metcalf recently represented ICC Alaska at a joint International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)/ Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) Workshop to Identify Ecologically Important and Vulnerable Marine Areas in the Arctic. The meeting hosted a variety of national and international scientists, indigenous groups and other organizations with expertise in the Arctic marine ecosystem. It is very important that Inuit be involved in this discussion to ensure that our traditional hunting, fishing and gathering areas are not overlooked.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a global conservation network that works to find solutions to environmental and development challenges. It supports scientific research to inform policy, laws and best practices at various levels including the United Nations.

As the lead organizer for the workshop and a formal advisor to UNESCO and World Heritage Center, IUCN will prepare a 'thematic study' on natural heritage areas or vulnerable sites in the Arctic to be considered for nomination. Several

international basemaps were presented and reviewed to assist in further providing information gaps regarding location of ecologic and vulnerable areas by utilizing internationally accepted criteria developed by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). These maps included 'distribution of oceanographic and biological features' that were prepared before the workshop using existing data available to the public. The participants extensively reviewed and revised the maps and provided further information to identify important or vulnerable marine areas. Several sites now considered "natural or mixed" World Heritage properties were shared by the workshop presenters to aid participants in resource discussions. These included Wrangel Island in Russia and Surtsey in Iceland.

Workshop topics included: Vulnerable Marine Areas; Ecosystem-based Management; Mapped and geographically important species-sensitive Arctic marine areas; and Arctic marine spatial planning.

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2011 Kawerak, Inc. Bering Strait Regional Conference

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February 22-24, 2011

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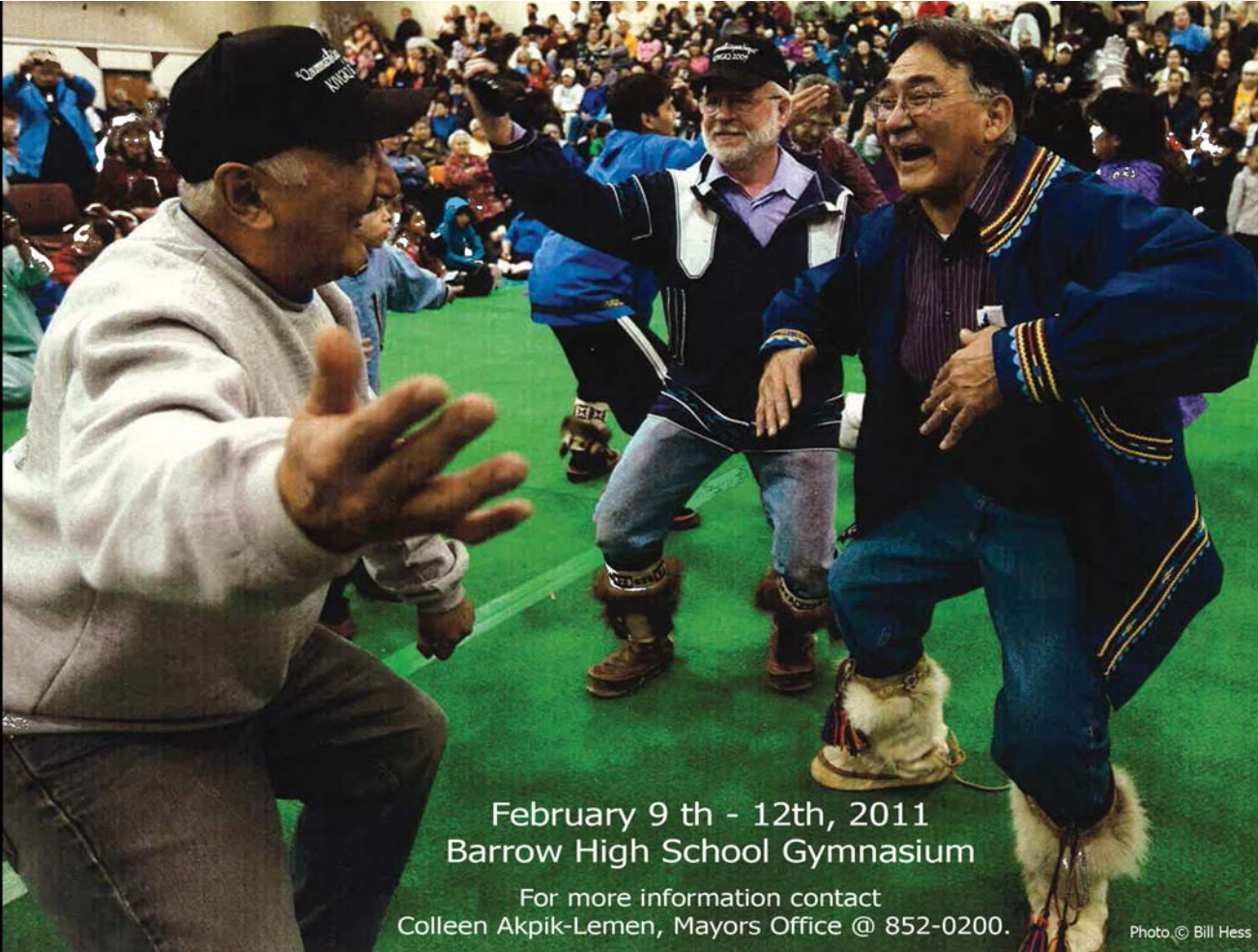
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Vera also participated in another workshop that focused on an Arctic Marine World Heritage Site following the IUCN/NRDC meetings. This workshop allowed participants to review updated Arctic maps from the previous day identifying areas to be considered for enhanced protection. Vera reflected on the workshop and said, "The international criteria developed by Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) were again used as guides, but I noted the absence of areas considered sensitive habitat for bird and marine mammal species that are critical to Arctic indigenous residents. If not monitored adequately or consistently, the long-term sustainability of these areas will be affected by industrial development, increase marine traffic, and commercial fishing activities."

In her report, Vera encouraged better inclusion of indigenous people in the mapping projects and said that

the criteria for identifying ecologically sensitive areas does not include indigenous peoples' traditional and customary use considerations.

Finally, Vera encouraged ICC to continue to be active in these issues and become familiar with the international criteria that CBD used at the workshop as they aided participants in updating draft maps used by Arctic Council. The Arctic Marine Synthesis atlas of the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas completed by Audubon Alaska and Oceana were valuable to have at the workshop as it provided GIS data of physical and oceanographic maps with key habitat areas for marine mammals and different bird species. We look forward to having Vera continue to take the lead for ICC Alaska in this work.. [O](#)



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February 9th - 12th, 2011
Barrow High School Gymnasium

For more information contact
Colleen Akpik-Lemen, Mayors Office @ 852-0200.

Photo © Bill Hess

Family and Love ▪ Anayuqaagiit Piqpakkutiqaḡnik

recommendations on the issues of offshore oil and gas development, uranium mining and environmental and social impact assessments. ICC Alaska will further work toward this goal by advocating for Inuit benefits from and involvement in resource development planning and decisions within the Arctic Council and other relevant forums.

Health and wellbeing is the fourth priority of the Board of Directors. The Board has directed staff to connect with regional Inuit health organizations in Alaska and learn about current health initiatives to better advocate for improvement of Inuit health and well being. The Board also called for ICC Alaska to continue to engage in the follow-up work from the Inuit Health Summit currently being led by ICC Canada. Objectives include sharing of best practices and health information, promotion of health research activities and policy development within the Arctic Council and other forums with the ultimate goal of supporting improved Inuit health and well being.

The fifth priority of the Board is to increase media and communication activities to ensure communication with stakeholders and the world at large. Assessment of current communication strategies and development of a communications plan are the main tasks to be completed under this priority. One task ICC Alaska will pursue is to establish partnerships to promote the development of a Pan-Arctic media network. We have made initial contacts with the Koahniac Broadcasting Corporation to begin this work.

In light of the ICC restructuring changes that eliminated separate youth and elders conferences during the General



Photo by ICC Alaska Staff

Assemblies, ICC Alaska recognized the importance of continuing youth involvement in ICC Alaska. The plan calls for continued involvement of a youth representative on the Board of Directors, outreach to existing regional Inuit youth groups, consideration of an ICC Alaska youth organization and other youth programs including youth exchange, college intern program, youth component in all ICC initiated projects and hiring a youth coordinator. Other activities directed under the Nuuk Declaration that ICC Alaska plans to act on include archiving ICC Alaska's historical record; working with ICC Greenland to analyze the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples from the Inuit perspective and conducting outreach activities within Alaska; continuing to be actively engaged in the work of the Arctic Council and the United Nations to develop policy in cooperation with the other ICC offices; continuing to be engaged in international discussion on climate change with an emphasis on adaptation strategies; working closely with ICC Canada on promoting a pollution-free environment with clean air, food and water in the Inuit homeland; and supporting ICC Chukotka to develop capacity, assisting in the development of ICC Chukotka projects and activities, and establishing cultural and social ties with the other countries.


Many of the proposed activities in the strategic plan require external funding. The Board has recognized this and has directed staff to develop a funding plan to accomplish the work. To do that, ICC Alaska will hire Angela Cox, an independent consultant originally from Barrow, to develop a funding plan. Reports on plan activities will continue in future issues of DRUM. 



Photo by ICC Alaska Staff

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www.iccalaska.org

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.

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