

DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 18-23 * Arctic Frontiers Annual Conference * Tromso, Norway * www.arctic-frontiers.com

February 11-14 * Kivgik Celebration * Barrow, Alaska * www.north-slope.org

February 24-26 * Kawerak Regional Conference * Nome, Alaska * www.kawerak.org

March 3-6 * UNESCO Experts Meeting on Sustainable Development in the Arctic * Monaco * www.unesco.org

March 9-11 * International Whaling Commission * Rome, Italy * www.iwcoffice.org

March 18-19 * Arctic Council Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP) * Stockholm, Sweden * www.arctic-council.org

April 26-27 * Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials * Tromso, Norway * www.arctic-council.org

April 28-29 * Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting * Tromso, Norway * www.arctic-council.org

April 20-24 * Indigenous Peoples Global Summit on Climate Change * Anchorage, Alaska * www.indigenoussummit.com





Paticipants to the Inuit Leaders Summit on Arctic Sovereignty in Kuujjuaq. Photo by ICC Alaska Staff

Arctic Sovereignty Begins with Inuit By ICC Canada Staff

Inuit leaders from Greenland, Alaska, and Canada met in Kuujjuaq, Northern Quebec on November 7th and agreed to develop an 'Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic'. In advance of the Declaration the leaders also approved a Statement on this important topic.

"On behalf of ICC and Circumpolar leaders, we are pleased with our discussions over the past two days at the Inuit Leader's Summit on Arctic Sovereignty in Kuujjuaq. The meeting has been a most useful information exchange on the topic of sovereignty in the Arctic among Inuit leaders and invited experts. We have generated a practical way for going forward," stated Patricia Cochran, Chair of Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC).

Sovereignty is a complex issue. It has a variety of overlapping elements, anchored in international law. But fundamentally it begins with the history and reality of Inuit use and occupation of Arctic lands and waters; that use and occupation is at the heart of any informed discussion of sovereignty in the Arctic. Arctic nation states must respect the rights and roles of Inuit in all international discussions and commitments dealing with the Arctic.

Leaders agreed that the pursuit of resources through an agenda of Arctic sovereignty must involve coordinated strategies to ensure the Arctic has viable and healthy communities, sound civil administration, and responsible environmental management, not just ports, training facilities, and military exercises.

"One clear message from the convening of our meeting is that for all sorts of reasons - law, politics, and the very practical reason that the world stands to learn the most about the Arctic from the people who know the Arctic best - Inuit have an essential role in international discussions about arctic waters, marine transportation plans, environmental initiatives and mechanisms, and the future

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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 (Maniilag Association)

Martha Whiting (Northwest Arctic Borough)

Willie Goodwin Jr. (Elder Representative)

Bering Straits Region

Loretta Bullard (Kawerak, Incorporated)

Tim Towarak (Bering Straits Native Corporation)

Lee Ryan (Youth Representative)

Southwest Region

Myron Naneng (Association of Village Council Presidents)

A Message from ICC-AK President Edward S. Itta



This is a wonderful time of year, the season when we give thanks and celebrate our blessings. There are always plenty of challenges for us as individuals, as Americans and as Inuit, and we are mindful of them all year long. But we do ourselves a favor if we pause in this holiday season to express our gratitude for all that has been given to us in this life.

We have our families and friends to bring us joy. We have the wisdom of our elders and ancestors to guide us in our daily life. We have our culture to support us and remind us who we are. And we have the

opportunity to work together as one people across international boundaries and vast distances.

In this issue of The Drum, you'll read about the summit on Arctic Sovereignty that was held recently in Canada. It was an inspiring gathering, charged with positive ideas and practical hopes, along with a shared commitment to the need for greater Inuit representation in international decisions about the future of the Arctic.

We are committed as an organization to claiming our rightful place in the policymaking arenas of the world. Inuit people have the most to lose from decisions that elevate other values above the health of the arctic world. This frozen realm is our home, and our future as a people is tied to its preservation as a "garden" for all the species that depend on it.

In this season of joy and sharing, let us rededicate ourselves to protecting the world around us for the benefit of future Inuit generations. We owe it to them, and they are counting on us.

I also want to take this opportunity to invite you to the upcoming Kivgiq that will be held in Barrow on February 11-14, 2009. Kivgiq is the traditional Messenger Feast that brought people together from great distances for bartering and gift exchange. It died out during the early 20th Century, but has been revived in modern times and is now our largest cultural event, attracting Inuit and others from around the world. This year's Kivgiq will feature traditional dance groups from as far away as Russia. It is a giant celebration of Inuit unity, and it is guaranteed to send you home with a smile on your face and a warmth in your heart.

I hope you can join us for Kivgiq 2009, the North Slope's biennial gathering of Inuit spirit and pride. O

Check Out Our Website!

www.iccalaska.org

"DRUM" is now online!

The 2008 Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium By Oscar Alexie

I received a surprise phone call from Jimmy Stotts of the Inuit Circumpolar Council–Alaska (ICC Alaska) last summer. He said that my name had come up when he was looking for someone to represent the Yup'ik people at the 2008 Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium in Tromso, Norway.

After some serious thought, I said I would be willing to go as a delegate. The Alaska delegation included Vera Metcalf representing the Siberian Yupik, Linda Lee representing the Inupiat, and myself representing the Yup'ik. Other Alaskans included Darlene Orr of Bethel, Sophie Alexie of Bethel, Dr. Patrick Marlow of Fairbanks, Ronald Brower of Fairbanks/Barrow, and Kathy Sikorski of Fairbanks.

I have attended and presented at conferences before, but I had never participated in a panel quite like this. As the day of travel quickly approached, I began to wonder what my role would be as a delegate.

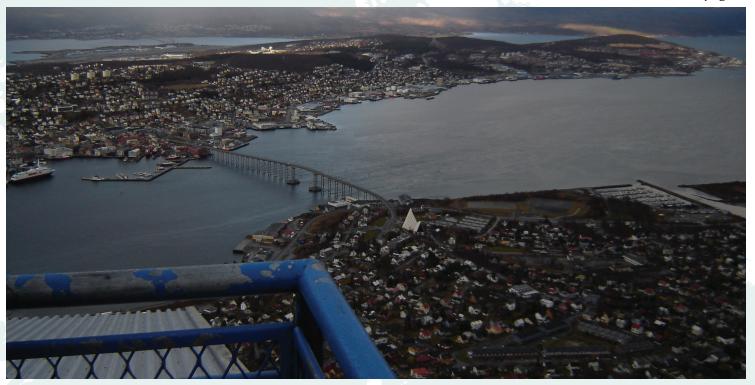
I arrived in Tromso on Saturday, October 18, still feeling uneasy about my role as an Alaskan delegate. The following morning, my mind was quickly set at ease by "Puyu" Carl Christian Olsen, who gave me a quick lesson on what my job would entail.



Sophie Alexie, Yup'ik from Bethel and Tatyana Achirigina, Siberian Yup'ik and former ICC Chukotka Council Member attended the Arctic Indigenous Language Symposium in Tromso, Norway. Photo by Oscar Alexie

We went up on the mountaintop overlooking Tromso for a welcome lunch hosted by the Saamis. The reindeer soup they served made me feel like we hadn't really left home! The lunch was followed by entertainment provided by Lars Andreassen's Saami songs (Yoiks).

Sunday evening found us at a reception where the participants were able to meet teachers and other professionals involved in indigenous languages. Time quickly flew by as we found similar interests, jobs, problems and answers to our questions. What most intrigued me was finding people who know some of the same people we know, giving more meaning to the *continued on page 6*



View of Tromso, Norway. Photo by Oscar Alexie

An Update on CAFF By Taqulik Hepa

Taqulik Hepa attended the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) XII Biennial working group meeting in Ilulissat, Greenland September 30 – October 2, 2008. Taqulik participated as a permanent participant representing ICC–Alaska. Carl Chr. Olsen "Puyu" also attended representing ICC-Greenland.

The CAFF program is the biodiversity working group of the Arctic Council. The CAFF working group consists of representatives from Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Russia, and the United States, with permanent participation from ICC, Saami Council, RAIPON, Gwitchin Council International, Arctic Athabaskan Council and Aleut International Association. Currently the CAFF chairmanship is held by Greenland.

CAFF's mission is to address the conservation of biodiversity, and communicate its findings to the governments and residents of the Arctic.

The main objectives of CAFF are to: monitor Arctic Biodiversity; conserve Arctic species and their habitats; consider the establishment of protected areas; conserve nature outside of protected areas; integrate both conservation objectives and measures for economic sectors of the society.

There were three main items discussed at the meeting in Ilulissat; 1) the working group reviewed the work of CAFF during the present Arctic Council inter-ministerial period of 2006-2008. The 2006-2008 work plan emphasizes collaboration with other Arctic Council (AC) working groups (such as AMAP, PAME) and with other organizations outside the AC, and for CAFF to actively contribute to global conservation agendas, 2) the group developed an outline of CAFF's deliverables to the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Norway set for April 2009, and 3) discussed the work plan of CAFF over the next inter-ministerial period of 2009-2011.

The two main projects that CAFF endorses in response to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) are continued on page 6



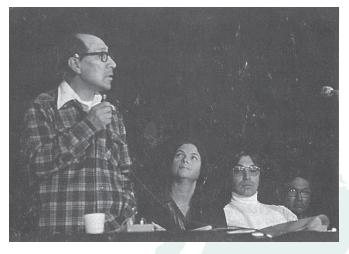
Inuit Day Celebrates ICC Founder's Birthday on November 7th By ICC Alaska Staff

This photo was taken from the Arctic Coastal Zone Management Newsletter, North Slope Borough, Issue 29, page 32. The caption read: "Mayor Eben Hopson addresses the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference held in Barrow, Alaska, June 1977. Hopson felt that the organization of the Inuit peoples of the Arctic into an effective political body that would be able to promote the environmental protection of the Arctic through international cooperation was the most important task of his career. Sitting on his left are Barbara Blum, Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency; Willie Hensley, President of NANA Development Corporation;

and John Oktollik, a whaling captain of Point Hope, Alaska." Photo by: Steve Cysewski."

November 7th has been designated as Inuit Day to commemorate ICC Founder Eben Hopson Sr.'s birthday. Eben's leadership paved the way for the Inuit Circumpolar Council's involvement and influence in international political affairs. This year on Inuit Day, Inuit Leaders from throughout the Arctic met in Kuujjuaq, Nunavik, on the topic of Arctic sovereignty. As a result of Eben's visionary leadership, ICC continues to make great strides in advancing the interests of Inuit on many important topics like Arctic sovereignty.



Report from ICC Chair, Patricia Cochran



The Arctic as an Emerging Energy Province

Holiday greetings to all Arctic peoples! My newsletter article will highlight the central role that Indigenous peoples must play in all future discussions concerning Arctic energy and energy resources.

Throughout the Arctic region, both renewable and non-renewable resource development and exploitation has prompted or forced federal, state and provincial governments as well as third parties to address or resolve the rights and claims of Indigenous peoples to their lands, territories and resources. Indeed, the discovery of oil on Indigenous territory on the North Slope of Alaska resulted in Congressional adoption of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

Though some may view the results of land claims agreements with varying degrees of skepticism, the world community as well as Indigenous peoples have developed and evolved to a place where we can and should emphasize opportunities for partnership in order to face the challenges of geographic isolation, harsh environmental and economic conditions, potential adverse impacts, and other factors that we must confront. Such challenges are unlikely to be effectively met through isolated efforts.

In this regard, to ensure that we are full and active partners in the development of strategies for sustainable use of Arctic energy resources it is critical for others to recognize and respect the fundamental human rights of Arctic Indigenous peoples. For example, in relation to the "sustainability theme," the concept of "equitable" must also be incorporated as a principle element. Northern peoples must play a joint role in various arrangements and strategies based upon their direct and distinct rights and interests in Arctic energy issues.

Before addressing opportunities for renewable energy, I would like to discuss a number of concerns that Northern Indigenous communities have in relation to Arctic energy. One of the major challenges facing our communities is the reliance upon bulk fuel. The Denali Commission has identified the need to replace more than 45 million gallons of fuel storage capacity. In urban Alaska, electricity comes from natural gas, hydro and some coal, but in rural Alaska it is almost exclusively from diesel. In many rural communities, the lack of economic activity and chronic unemployment compound the perennial problem of the high cost for bulk fuel. Furthermore, the associated

use of old tanks and the actual transport of heating oil that may contribute to serious spills and other pollution issues are matters that cannot be ignored in relation to community reliance upon bulk fuel.

This and other utility costs, which in rural Alaska are 50% higher than in year 2000, are also having a devastating impact upon the existence of Alaska's Native communities as we see more individuals and families unable to maintain their homes and eventually moving from villages because they simply cannot afford to stay. Such migrations have widespread effects upon extended family as well as the stability and viability of Alaska Native rural communities, their tribal and local governments, schools and other vital community institutions.

In relation to subsurface resources, such as coal, the impacts on the environment and subsistence resources as well as the divisiveness created within communities because of such energy resource exploitation, they remain less attractive Arctic energy alternatives for our communities. How do we decide the importance of fish or coal, jobs or subsistence? These are critical issues we all face.

What about geothermal? I grew up in Northwestern Alaska knowing the luxury of Serpentine and Pilgrim Hot Springs. What incredible places—especially because of their traditional healing and spiritual powers. These sacred places now may be opened to tourism. I raise these issues because we need to consider all aspects and outcomes in the use of alternative energy sources.

Though oil and gas development has been the pillar of Alaska's economy, the potential adverse impact of offshore development upon our whaling communities is wholly inconsistent with any principles of sustainable and equitable development. With one fourth of the world's remaining oil in the Arctic, we acknowledge the national and international implications. We've certainly seen the benefits and the challenges that come from our own Alaskan experience. We've seen the growth of many of our Native corporations and communities – allowing for better education, more jobs, economic opportunity and the responsibility for leadership that is cognizant of the effect our actions have on future generations.

Overall, with the potential for use of energy resources that are more environmentally friendly, sustainable and becoming more affordable for rural communities, we should be turning our attention toward use of alternative energy sources such as wind farms and solar power. If we look at the experiences we have had in Alaska, we've seen good success with the wind farm in Kotzebue. Kotzebue has 17 wind generators with first ones installed in 1996. They have saved the Kotzebue Electric Assn. about 100,000 gallons of fuel a year and reduced CO2

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of international Arctic institutions and relations generally," added Ms. Cochran.

The Inuit leaders gathered in Kuujjuaq committed to complete a Declaration by March 31, 2009. This timetable will allow the Declaration to inform the next meeting of the Arctic Council Ministers scheduled for April, 2009 in Tromsø, Norway. Future articles will appear in DRUM on Arctic Sovereignty once the Declaration is completed.

Apart from the ICC Chair, the Inuit leadership in Kuujjuaq included Inuit Mayors, a Premier, the President of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Presidents of land claims organizations, and ICC Executive Council members from across the Arctic.

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phrase, "It's a small world!"

Monday and Tuesday found me sitting at the delegates' table, listening to a variety of presentations from all across the Arctic. I was overwhelmed by it all. I recognized some concerns that we also have, and heard others that I had not even thought of, but that others are already doing something about.

What most impressed me were the comments by representatives of the Youth Council. It gave me a good feeling to know there are youth out there who can see the importance of our languages in preserving a way of life, which in turn can preserve the environment and its people. They showed me that I can and should try to do something about my language, and that there are still some younger people out there who will take our place when we are no longer able to do this work.

The meetings came to a close so soon that it gave me mixed feelings. I felt grateful that there is a good chance of survival for our indigenous languages, but I also felt that we can be so busy working to preserve our language and way of life that we fail to notice small problem areas that can and will erode what we are striving to keep.

I would like to thank ICC Alaska for the opportunity to attend this symposium and the University of Alaska – Kuskokwim Campus for paying my travel, room and board. I also want to thank the sponsors of the symposium for the invitation and the Saamis who welcomed us to their homeland.

I also want to urge our people to take whatever measures they can to attend conferences like this one so they will gain the knowledge to preserve our way of life.

For more information and transcripts of presentations, go to www.arcticlanguages.com. Q

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the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP). The ACIA indicated it was necessary to consider the status and trends of biodiversity in the Arctic.

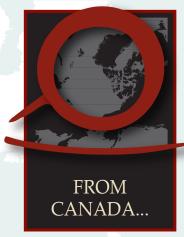
ABA's purpose is to synthesize and assess the status and trends of biological diversity in the Arctic. The United States, Finland, and Denmark/Greenland are co-leads of the Assessment. At this meeting it was reported that Hans Meltofte was appointed as Chief Scientist of the ABA.

CBMP's is an ecosystem-based management approach, functioning as a coordinating entity for existing species, habitat, and site-based networks. Currently there are 33 existing networks linked to CBMP. Canada continues to take the lead for CBMP.

CAFF has 3 expert groups: 1) CAFF Flora Group, 2) CAFF Seabird Group, and 3) Circumpolar Protected Areas Network. Detail status reports were given by project leads.

Overall, I thought this was a productive meeting. It's good to know that there is much collaborative Arctic research and monitoring being initiated at the Arctic Council level. It is also good to know that indigenous peoples have a seat at the table and have a voice in this forum.

For more information go to www.arctic-council.org and click on to the CAFF working group. Q

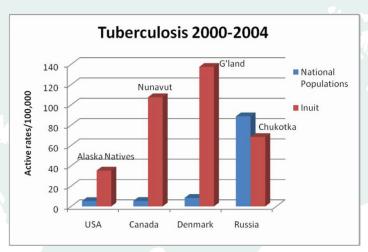


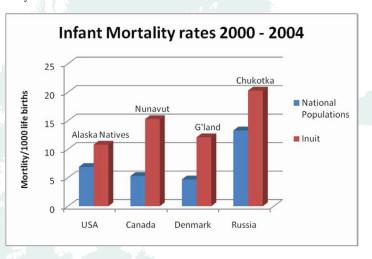
Inuit Circumpolar Health Action Plan Activities By Eva Kruemmel

Although the last 100 years have seen some major improvements in health and survival for circumpolar Inuit, advances in some areas have been overshadowed by emerging problems. Major health concerns that are shared by all Inuit include mental health, suicide, substance abuse and diseases such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease and tuberculosis (TB). There is only limited Inuit-specific health data available within national statistics, but for the data that is available, stark differences are visible between Inuit and national populations in the circumpolar countries. For example, Inuit life expectancy is around 10 years less compared to that of national populations. Infant mortality was between 1.5 and 2.9 times higher among Inuit in 2000-2004 (see graph on left). The gaps are particularly notable and disturbing in the case of TB. The highest discrepancy can be found in Canada, where Nunavut's TB rate was

roughly 20 times that of the national average in the years 2000-2004 (see graph below), but TB rates of up to 90 times higher have been reported in some areas. Among Inuit, large fluctuations are evident due to periodic outbreaks occurring in relatively small populations. The lower TB rates in Chukotka may be attributed to the scarcity of reliable data.

Given the prevailing differences and stark health issues confronting Inuit across the circumpolar region, when ICC held its General Assembly in Barrow in 2006, Inuit health and wellness was identified as a priority for ICC action. This was expressed in two of the directives contained in the Utqiagvik Declaration. In response to the directives, ICC Canada is working on the development of a Circumpolar Inuit Health Action Plan. The Health Action plan will identify the health issues and mechanisms in which Inuit health priorities can



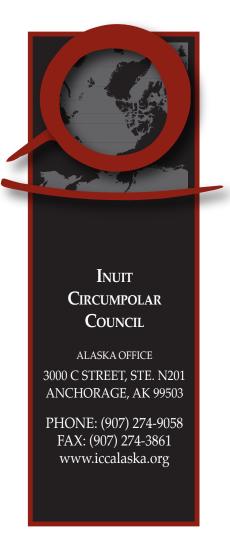


be advanced. It also aims to encourage support of Arctic governments for healthy community initiatives. To guide this work, a steering committee with representatives from each of the four country ICC offices was created. Their role is to help shape the Circumpolar Inuit Health Plan by identifying ways for ICC to act as an advocate on behalf of the Circumpolar Inuit and to lobby Arctic governments to respond to the health priorities of Inuit. The first meeting of the Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee was held in Copenhagen on September 22, 2008. ICC Canada is also planning a Circumpolar Inuit Health Summit in Yellowknife on 9 and 10 July 2009 just before the International Congress on Circumpolar Health, which is also taking place in Yellowknife from 11 – 16 July.

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emissions by 1,000 metrics tons a year. Fuel cost savings are around \$2,000,000 per year depending on the cost of fuel. All staff is local hire and trained to maintain the wind generators. Generators are also computer controlled and interfaced with the power plant to maximize energy efficiency. There are also existing wind projects in Wales, Selawik and St. Paul with several more proposed. But I admit I've often wondered as I've seen miles of windmills in the waters of other nations, how those communities feel seeing them outside their front window and in their waters.

As we look to the great bounty of resources in the Arctic, let us not forget our commitment to the stewardship of these lands we have been given in trust. And the power we hold in our hands for future generations. Let us be wise. Q



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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