

DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN

Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA

Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 7-10

ICC Alaska Food Security Project Fieldwork • Nuiqsut, Alaska •

January 16-17

Arctic Council Task Force on Oil Pollution Prevention • Oslo, Norway • <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/>

January 20-24

Alaska Marine Science Symposium • Anchorage, Alaska • <http://www.alaskamarinescience.org/>

February 2-6

ICC Executive Council Meeting • Nain, Labrador •

February 3-7

Arctic Council Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) Head of Delegation Working Group Meeting • Rovaniemi, Finland • <http://www.amap.no/>

February 10-13

Arctic Council "Facilitating Adaptation to Climate Change Workshop" • Anchorage, Alaska •

February 11-13

Arctic Council Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) • Kuujuaq, Canada • <http://www.caff.is/kuujuaq>

February 11-13

Arctic Council Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) • Anchorage, Alaska • <http://www.pame.is/>

March 6-7

ICC-Alaska General Assembly Delegates Meeting • Anchorage, Alaska •

March 22-24

Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) • Yellowknife, Canada • <http://www.sdwg.org>

March 25-27

Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) • Yellowknife, Canada • <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en>

April 16-17

ICC Alaska Education Workshop • Nome, Alaska •

July 21-24

ICC General Assembly • Iqaluit, NWT Canada •



Pauline Harvey, ICC Alaska Education Workgroup member representing the Northwest Arctic region at the June Nelson Elementary School in Kotzebue. Photo provided by Pauline Harvey.

Education Project Kicks Off

By ICC Alaska Staff

The ICC Alaska Education Workgroup met in its first meeting in early December in Anchorage to kick off the education project to facilitate the development of an Alaskan Inuit Education Improvement Strategy.

ICC receives its mandate from Inuit delegates from Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Chukotka gathered in a General Assembly held every four years. Under the current mandate, contained in the Nuuk Declaration, ICC was called on to promote education exchanges, share educational best practices, and to host a circumpolar Inuit education summit.

After the General Assembly, the ICC Alaska Board of Directors underwent strategic planning to set organizational priorities using the Nuuk Declaration as the guiding document. As a result, education was set as the second priority. The Board directed staff to develop a project to convene Inuit education experts and practitioners in Alaska to organize for the circumpolar Inuit education summit and to develop Alaska specific recommendations and strategy. Despite the circumpolar Inuit education summit being postponed, the Alaska focused project will move forward and ready Alaskan Inuit for a future summit. Overall, the project seeks to proactively position Alaskan Inuit to address education disparities. This will be the first time that the four Inuit regions in Alaska will convene in a workshop to do this work.

Serving on the Workgroup are Jana Harcharak, Director of the Inupiaq Education Department at the North Slope Borough School District (North Slope Region); Pauline Harvey, Director of the Chukchi Campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (Northwest Arctic Region); Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle, Director of the Eskimo Heritage Program at Kawerak, Incorporated and former teacher (Bering Straits Region); Renee Green, Teacher at Hooper Bay School (Southwest Region) and Madelyn Alvanna-Stimpfle, University of Alaska Anchorage student pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Alaska Native Studies (Youth Representative).

Workgroup members serve as region representatives appointed by ICC Alaska member organizations. They will represent their respective region's

continued on page 7



ICC ALASKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President's Message

James Stotts

Christmas in a Northern Town...

Barrow is much like other Inuit communities in the north, an odd mixture of old traditions and new technologies. Snow machines have replaced the dog teams that every family had when I was a young boy. Today kids play X-box and call each other on cell phones. When I was young we just played out, even at 40 below. We made our own toys and played traditional games. We had a lot of fun growing up back then and Christmas was always a special time.

What I remember most about Christmas is the food. During Christmas the whole town would gather at the Presbyterian Church and sit down to a community dinner. There are new churches in Barrow now, but they all follow the old tradition of hosting a feast. I hope this is one tradition that remains constant.

Generations of families sat together to share duck, goose, fish, caribou, and seal stews along with dried meats and fish. If the previous whaling season was successful we would enjoy whale meat and muktak. If you were lucky you might get a little piece of Eskimo ice-cream. Yummy! It's much the same today except now delicious homemade cakes and pies have been added to the menu, along with that new traditional dish, spaghetti and meatballs.

Community members would reenact the nativity story, including a real-live baby to play baby Jesus. Over the years some of the performances have been Oscar worthy and it was all done up in Inupiaq. The play would result in lots of laughter and of course everyone is a critic. The Presbyterian Church still continues this tradition today.

Another tradition is a week-long competition of Inuit games which occurs between Christmas and New Years. On the last day the competition lasts for 24 hours. The two teams are selected quite simply; married versus singles. Men and women compete to see who will be town champion in the different events. People go to watch the competition every evening and cheer on their favorites. Often it seems the strength events are dominated by the married team while the agility events are won by the singles. It's great healthy fun for all.



*Inupiaq games held during Christmas week in Barrow last year.
Photo by Jack Frantz.*

When missionaries first came to our territory they attempted to portray our dances as being heathen and did their best to stop our dancing. The missionaries succeeded in some communities, but not in Barrow. So the holidays conclude with good old fashioned Inupiaq dancing, a great way to rejuvenate and let off some steam.

I wish you Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year. 

World Conference of Indigenous Women

By ICC Alaska Staff


"Progress and Challenges Regarding the Future We Want" was the theme of the World Conference of Indigenous Women held in Lima, Peru in October. ICC Alaska received an invitation from the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas-ECMIA, CHIRAPAQ Center for Indigenous Cultures of Peru and the International Indigenous Women's Forum to designate an Inuit woman to participate in the Conference. In the invitation letter, the organizers described the Conference as a "strategic opportunity that will enable indigenous youth and women from the seven regions of the world to be informed, reach consensus and establish a common, political statement as a world-level indigenous women's movement."

ICC Alaska approached the Tundra Women's Coalition, a domestic and sexual abuse and violence shelter and

advocacy group in Bethel, Alaska, to name a representative to attend as suggested by the Association of Village Council Presidents. Monica Charles Leinberger, board member of the Coalition was appointed as the representative and joined other Inuit and Saami women as the Arctic delegation.

Monica reported on a session titled "The Eradication of Violence Against Women." Participants included indigenous women from Greenland, Canada, Africa, Peru, Mexico, Tibet, Thailand, Mexico, Guatemala, the United States, Russia and Norway. During this session, the group discussed gender-based violence, loss of territories/invasion of lands, sexual exploitation and forced pregnancy, female genital mutilation, lacerations, and other forms of physical violence, and strategies for healing.


In her report, she stated, "We need to promote violence-free communities through culturally appropriate outreach programs and supportive services. We must take culture and language of indigenous peoples into consideration when developing programs that provide services for families experiencing domestic or sexual violence." She followed by saying that by taking these points into consideration, there is greater chance for successful programs for developing awareness and solutions to help decrease the prevalence of domestic violence and sexual assault among Inuit.

The resulting document from the Conference, the Lima Declaration, can be found online at: <http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Announcements2/Lima-Declaration-World-Conference-of-Indigenous-Women>. This work will be used in advocacy efforts within various international processes including, the World Conference on Indigenous Issues 2014. 



The Inuit Delegation at the World Indigenous Women's Conference. L to R: Aili Liimakka Laue(Greenland), Monica Charles Leinberger(Alaska), Dalee Sambo(Alaska), Aviaja Lynge(Greenland), and Linda Arsenault(Canada). Photo provided by Monica Charles Leinberger.



This month ICC Alaska says goodbye to Professor Betsy Baker, who has spent the last five months as a guest in our office. Betsy used her research leave from Vermont Law School to pursue independent projects relating to federal regulation in the U.S. Arctic. ICC Alaska was her home base as she conducted interviews around the city and state relating to offshore oil and gas activity in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas. Although she was not working for us, sharing office space allowed for good exchanges on issues of common interest, including international law, fisheries, the law of the sea, and the role of traditional knowledge in the federal regulatory process. Baker said, "Seeing ICC Alaska's work first hand over this extended stay has been invaluable to my understanding of Alaskan and circum-Arctic issues. I am grateful to everyone at ICC Alaska for the generous welcome, all the hard work, laughter, and collegiality, and for all you accomplish on behalf of Alaska's and the circumpolar Inuit community." 

Alaska and Arctic Marine Shipping

By ICC Alaska Staff

There's great interest in Alaska over the prospect of marine shipping in the Arctic Ocean, particularly through the Bering Strait. The federal government, lead by the Coast Guard, has been busy visiting communities dispensing information and soliciting opinion. Conferences are being held almost on a weekly basis. Shipping is being discussed from different angles, including: economic development and infrastructure needs, cultural and social impact, environmental impact, and food security to name a few. There are many stakeholders in this discussion, local to national.

The following summarizes the activity to implement the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA). Progress has been made on many fronts and continues. An excellent place to start is the **Status on Implementation of the AMSA 2009 Report Recommendations** presented last May just in time for the Arctic Council Ministers meeting in Sweden. This 24 page report shows progress made during the period 2011-13. The report was prepared by the Protection of the Marine Environment (PAME) working group.



The report is organized along the themes of the original AMSA: 1) enhancing Arctic marine safety; 2) protecting Arctic people and the environment; 3) building the Arctic marine infrastructure. These themes resulted in 17 specific recommendations for implementation. Some of the highlights from the status report include:

Theme I – safety: PAME is engaged with: International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Maritime Satellite Organization (IMSO), and International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). Some Arctic states are engaged with these same organizations on safety issues concerning navigation and carriage of heavy fuel oil. Another major effort is to develop a Polar Code with the IMO to address ship safety issues with the first phase planned for completion in 2014.

PAME completed Phase II of the Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) which looks for gaps in measures for the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment including marine shipping. Some Arctic states submitted information to the IMO on standards and guidelines to address safety and environmental best practices for cruise ship operations in the Arctic. PAME has met with representatives of the cruise ship industry on a number of occasions.

Finally, the Arctic Search and Rescue Agreement came into force on January 19, 2013. There have been 3 SAR exercises since October 2011. Russia in particular is moving ahead rapidly to establish shore-based infrastructure for SAR operations.

Theme II – people and environment: Some Permanent Participants (PP's) are working on surveys of their own traditional use, particularly in the USA and Canada. The Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group and Sustainable Development working Group (SDWG) are moving towards better consultation with the PP's concerning traditional knowledge. ICC has a project with SDWG, **A Circumpolar-Wide Inuit Response to the AMSA**. This ICC lead initiative was reported on in the March 2013 edition of DRUM.

Last December, the CAFF, SDWG and Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) working groups completed a report to identify marine areas that should be protected from marine shipping due to high ecological and cultural significance. About 99 areas were identified. Another project lead by PAME will make recommendations on areas for protection due to environmental concerns in the Arctic Ocean. Most Arctic states have contributed to this project.

ICC closely follows three recommendations from Theme II: Protection from Invasive Species; Impacts on

Marine Mammals; and Reducing Air Emissions. Finally, the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) working group is leading the effort with the other working groups on several initiatives in the field of oil spill prevention. At the Ministerial meeting last May a new Task Force was created to develop an action plan or other arrangement on oil pollution prevention to be presented at the 2015 Ministerial.

Theme III – infrastructure: Infrastructure needs include: ice navigation training; navigation charts; communication systems; port services, with ship waste reception facilities; ice

continued on page 7



Chair's Message

Aqqaluk Lynge

Arctic Peoples' Conference – Celebrating 40 years of Indigenous Cooperation

In 1973, Inuit from Canada and Greenland met for the first time with other Arctic indigenous peoples. To commemorate this first meeting when Inuit from Greenland became part of the global indigenous movement, the Chair's office organized a meeting at the same

venue forty years later at the Danish Parliament Building (Christiansborg) in Copenhagen November 21-22, 2013. The meeting was arranged together with the Saami Council and was funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The weather did not cooperate. Just days before our departure from Nuuk, ICC Alaska Executive Council member Vera Metcalf had to excuse herself because of storms in the Bering Straits. We could not get out of Nuuk for 3 days due to storm. Luckily we arrived just hours before the official opening of the meeting.

The two day meeting had 22 speakers from 15 countries and over 50 attendees. The whole Arctic was covered with Russia represented by the new RAIPON President, Gregory Ledkov. Due to funding restrictions we could not pay for other indigenous organizations from North America. We were lucky to have Tara Sweeny, Alaska Federation of Natives Co-Chair and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Senior Vice President, speak on the issue of Inuit partnership with the oil industry. During the meeting we discussed achievements of

the Arctic peoples, industrialization on indigenous lands, and perspectives on future Arctic cooperation.

The meeting concluded with recommendations for the leaders of RAIPON, Saami Council and ICC to further discuss:

- 1. Strengthening the Arctic Council by establishing an Arctic Council Co-chair/Vice-chair nominated by the Permanent Participants.
- 2. Encouraging the Arctic Council and other international Arctic fora to start the processes whereby full and effective inclusion of Arctic indigenous governments be considered.
- 3. Establishing a joint independent Arctic indigenous extractive industries monitoring mechanism.

Furthermore the RAIPON President Gregory Ledkov, Sami Council President Eile Javo, and ICC Chair Aqqaluk Lynge were asked to consider work to:

- 1. Establish a customs free system for Arctic indigenous produced products.
- 2. Establish visa free zones for Arctic indigenous peoples.
- 3. Work towards indigenous political representation in the European Parliament by establishing seats for indigenous representatives.

Finally we were asked to consider holding an Arctic Leaders' Summit in 2014. I hope the new ICC leadership appointed at the 2014 ICC General Assembly will be able to organize the proposed summit.

The celebration was highlighted on the last evening where we were entertained by Aavaat Choir with opera singer Ida Heinrich and the young singer/composer Malu Rohman Fleischer. There was an incredible show of singing and dancing with Aviaja Lumholt and Karina Møller together with their talented daughters.

Wishing you all the best for Christmas and the New Year. 



Arctic indigenous organization leaders attending the Arctic Peoples Conference pose for a photo. L to R: Gregory Ledkov (RAIPON), Aili Javo (Saami Council) and Aqqaluk Lynge (ICC). Photo provided by Aqqaluk Lynge.

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Barrow Food Security Workshop

By Carolina Behe, TK/Science Advisor

Inuit across the Alaskan Arctic have expressed an interest and a need to assess changes occurring through a food security lens. The ICC-Alaska food security project, *An Inuit Perspective On Food Security In The Alaska Arctic: Building A Framework On How To Assess Change In The Arctic*, aims to provide a tool to do just that. Throughout the food security project we are continuously informed and guided by Inuit communities. In the first and second steps of the project we visited fourteen villages within the four Inuit regions and gathered information through semi-directive interviews and community meetings. In the third step of the project, a workshop will be held in each of the four regions. On Nov. 13th and 14th we held the first food security workshop in Barrow!

Invited experts from villages within the North Slope region met for the two day workshop at the Iñupiat Heritage Center. In bringing this group of Traditional Knowledge holders together we are able to provide a validation process, which includes all villages. The participants discussed the overarching drivers that have been identified from information gathered so far and offered concepts/terms that need to be included within an Inuit food security definition. Participants agreed with the preliminary findings and offered a deeper discussion on some of the drivers, particularly

drivers associated with accessibility and availability. From an outside perspective the conversation may have seemed to jump from one topic to the next. However, the conversation described an intricate web, which makes up the Arctic ecosystem.

Participants shared information of how changes in sea ice are affecting their hunting and food preparation strategies. For example, a whaling captain's wife explained that she once would set-up camp on the ice to prepare food and provide clothing for the whalers. With changes in ice conditions this is no longer possible, removing her and the whaling crew from the process. While other participants stressed concern surrounding threatened caribou populations due to an increase in infrastructure, sports hunting and tourism. Participants also discussed the impact of increase shipping activity and industrial development. The conversations surrounding these topics stressed the interconnecting impacts brought on with change in the Arctic; such as the connections between education, language, passage of knowledge and change in animal migration patterns, health, and populations. Understanding these interconnections brings an understanding of Inuit food security and a holistic view of the Arctic ecosystem. [Q](#)

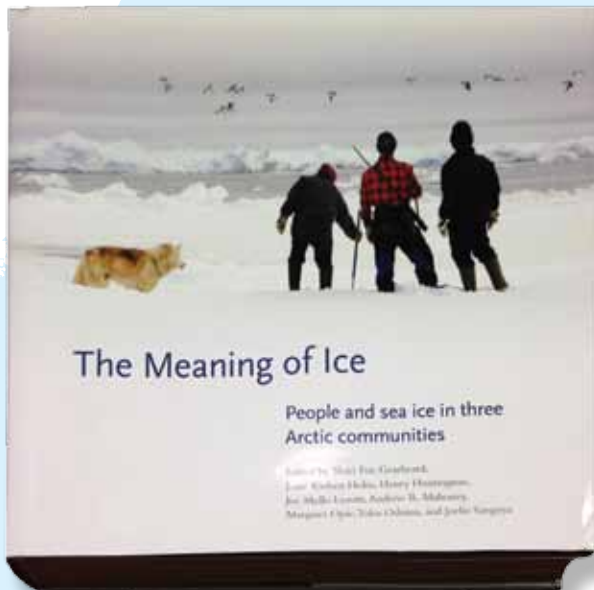


Barrow Food Security Workshop participants. Photo by Minnie Naylor.

Thank you to all of the meeting participants, observers, the planning committee and facilitators. Thank you to the Iñupiat Heritage Museum for providing space and to the NSB Wildlife Department and Health Department for providing food throughout the workshop and lodging for the participants. Thank you to ASRC for hosting a welcoming dinner. Finally, thank you to the NSB Mayor's office for all of your support!



Photo by Nicole Kanayurak.



The Meaning of Ice

People and Sea Ice in three Arctic Communities

ICC is proud to recommend a beautiful and inspiring book, *The Meaning of Ice*. This book describes uniquely Inuit, Inupiat and Inughuit perspectives on sea ice and what sea ice means to a people and their ancestors who have made a life with it for thousands of years. Views of sea ice are centered around four main themes: Home, Food, Freedom, and Tools and Clothing. Produced with diverse pieces from local artists, original illustrations, photographs, and maps, the book celebrates Inuit, Inupiat, and Inughuit knowledge, traditions, and values around life with sea ice. *The Meaning of Ice* is an important contribution to understanding the Arctic and its people at a time when the region is undergoing profound change, not least in terms of sea ice. It takes readers beyond what sea ice is, to broaden our appreciation of what sea ice means. [Q](#)

continued from page 1

perspectives and interests throughout the project but will also collectively provide direction to ICC Alaska on the overall project. Jim Stotts, ICC Alaska President said, "The approach that we take at ICC Alaska is to bring in our experts, in this case, experts in education, to help ICC Alaska accomplish our goals. Our members have appointed a great team for us to work with and we look forward to the project."

At the workgroup meeting, Nome was set as the location of the first-ever Alaskan Inuit Education Workshop. The workshop dates are yet to be confirmed and is tentatively planned for April 2014. The workshop objectives are to review the current state of Inuit education, define what education success is from an Inuit perspective, and make recommendations and set the overall principles of the strategy and complimentary implementation plan. Stotts said, "We anticipate Inuit solutions that will work from the workshop. Inuit view

things holistically and education needs to be looked at from different angles. Social and cultural needs and both new and traditional approaches need to be considered." The workgroup will take the results from the workshop and further articulate the strategy and implementation plan.

Dale L. Nelson Cope, Ph.D., Director of Education and Training Services with the Chariot Group, Incorporated will lead the project facilitation team. She will closely work with Laurie A. Evans-Dinneen, Associate Director with the Alaska Humanities Forum and Chris Simon, Rural Education Coordinator with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development who are a part of the facilitation team.

We are grateful for contributions from ConocoPhillips Alaska and Rasmuson Foundation who make this project possible. [Q](#)

continued from page 4

information centers; and icebreaker support. Several states have started to address the infrastructure deficit, particularly in Russia. In Alaska much of this discussion is led by the US Coast Guard. Theme III is probably the most contentious of the themes because it's expensive to build in the north. There is ongoing debate at the state and federal governments on the need to start funding infrastructure needs. The PAME report **Status on Implementation of the AMSA 2009 Report Recommendations** can be found at www.pame.is.

In addition to the ongoing work within the Arctic Council and Arctic states there are other initiatives moving forward on the shipping issue. As mentioned earlier there is the **Circumpolar-Wide Inuit Response to the AMSA**, led by ICC Canada. The report from the March 2013 workshop can be found at www.inuitcircumpolar.com.

Another development is the work of the **Alaska Arctic Policy Commission** which grew out of the work of the **Alaska Northern Waters Task Force**. Much of the focus of the Commission is on Arctic shipping. The Commission will submit a preliminary report to the Alaska legislature by January 30, 2014 with the final report due one year later. The work of the Commission can be followed at www.akarctic.com.

Finally, the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, Eskimo Walrus Commission, Alaska Beluga Whale Committee, Alaska Nanuq Commission, and the Ice Seal Committee have formed the **Arctic Marine Mammal Coalition** to address concerns with respect to hunting and made specific recommendations to the US Coast Guard to mitigate impacts from shipping in the Bering Straits region.

ICC Alaska continues to monitor this topic and will report on new developments in future issues of the DRUM. [Q](#)

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from ICC-Alaska!

Quyanaqpuk!

We are thankful for the generous contributions that support our efforts. This year we received grants and cash and in-kind donations from:

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|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
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