## VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4, DECEMBER 2014



# DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 12-15 ICC Executive Council Meeting \*Nuuk, Greenland\*

January 18-23 Arctic Frontiers 2015: Climate and Energy • Tromso, Norway • http://www.arcticfrontiers. com/2015-conference

January 27-29 Arctic Mining Summit • Stockholm, Sweden • http://www.arcticminingsummit.com

February, 3-5 PAME Working Group Meeting • Akureyri, Iceland • http://www.pame.is

February 9-14 Kigviq, Messenger Feast • Barrow, Alaska, USA

February 10-12 CAFF Biennial an Board Meeting • Whitehorse YT, Canada • http://www.caff.is/

February 10-12 Arctic Indigenous Languages Assessment Symposium • Whitehourse, YT, Canada • www.arcticlanguages.com/symposium

February 28- March 1 SDWG Working Group Meeting • Whitehorse, YT, Canada • http://www.arctic-council. org/index.php/en/sustainable-developmentworking-group-sdwg

March 4-5 Arctic Council SAO Meeting • Whitehorse YT Canada • www.arctic-council.org





ICC Alaska Board of Directors during the Strategic Plan Workshop. Bottom L to R: Percy Ballot (Maniilaq Association), Roy Ashenfelter (Bering Straits Native Corporation), Dr. Paul John (Elder Representative), George Olemaun (Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope). Top L to R: Hendy Ballot (Northwest Arctic Borough), Marie Green (NANA Regional Corporation), Nichole Kanayurak (Youth Representative), Denise Michels (Kawerak, Inc.), Vera Metcalf (ICC Executive Council Member and Board Vice President), Margaret Opie (North Slope Borough, alternate for Charlotte Brower), Vivian Korthuis (Association of Village Council Presidents) and Jim Stotts (ICC Executive Council Vice Chair and Board President). Photo by ICC Alaska.

## **Board Completes 2014-18 Strategic Plan**

By ICC Alaska Staff

The ICC Alaska Board of Directors participated in a strategic planning workshop to set priorities and plan for the future of the organization. The Board used the Kitigaaryuit Declaration, ICC's work plan for the 2014-2018 term, as the guide when setting priorities.

The main intentions for the workshop over the two and a half days were to review the organization's values, vision and mission; set the direction of the organization; develop priorities for the term leading up to the Barrow General Assembly in 2018; develop direction for leadership development and succession planning; develop a fundraising strategy that accounts for sustainability and future growth; and develop internal priorities and set direction for configuring and revitalizing the organization for success.

The workshop kicked off with a dinner meeting where the current Kitigaaryuit Declaration and the previous term strategic plan was reviewed. During this session participants also discussed why it was important for them to be at the workshop as well as what they hoped to accomplish over the course of the workshop.

The first day of the workshop was spent reviewing and revising the values, vision, and mission of the organization. The value, vision and mission statements were updated.

<u>Core Value</u>: The core value of the organization is its Inuit identity. Inuit culture, heritage, and language are at the heart of the organization's beliefs and values.

<u>Vision:</u> ICC-Alaska's vision is one of a world where Inuit are leading the way in every facet of life, creating and sustaining a future we can be proud to be apart of.

<u>Mission:</u> ICC-Alaska exists to be the unified voice and collective spirit of Alaskan Inuit, to promote, protect and advance Inuit culture and society.

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## ICC ALASKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## **ICC Executive Council**

Jim Stotts, President Vera Metcalf, Vice President

## North Slope Region

Charlotte Brower (North Slope Borough)

George Olemaun (Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope)

Richard Glenn (Arctic Slope Regional Corporation)

> Nichole Kanayurak (Youth Representative)

## Northwest Arctic Region

Marie Greene (NANA Regional Corporation)

> Percy Ballot (Maniilaq Association)

Hendy Ballot (Northwest Arctic Borough)

## **Bering Straits Region**

Denise Michels (Kawerak, Incorporated)

Roy Ashenfelter (Bering Straits Native Corporation)

## Southwest Region

Vivian Korthuis (Association of Village Council Presidents)

> Paul John. (Elder Representative)



## President's Message

### Jim Stotts

## After Elections - New Hope in Alaska...

Alaska held statewide elections in early November and there were changes made. Independent candidate Bill Walker, with Democratic candidate Byron Mallott as his running mate, won the Governor's race. This is the first time ever that a mixed party ticket has won this race. The two decided to merge their campaigns after polls suggested that was the only way the Republicans

could be defeated. Sean Parnell was the incumbent Republican Governor.

There was a strong showing for Byron Mallott from native voters. Mallott, a Tlingit Indian from Yakutat, and a long time statewide leader in both the public and private sector becomes the first Alaskan native to hold the office of Lt. Governor. There was much celebrating within the native community when Mallott wore his traditional regalia while being sworn in as Lt. Governor.

Parnell was not popular with many native Alaskans and had pushed an agenda that many thought detrimental to natives and rural residents. He was considered to be out of touch on the issue of subsistence priority for hunting and fishing and control of water rights. His administration was responsible for the abolishment of the State's Coastal Zone Management Program, and many thought he was just too cozy with the oil and gas industry. Finally, he was considered to be antagonistic toward tribal organizations.

Shortly after the election was over, Walker's team organized a transition effort inviting about 250 Alaskans from all walks of life, different political persuasions, and ethnic diversity. They met over three days at the University of Alaska campus in Anchorage and were charged with making recommendations to the Governor on a broad range of issues. What a breath of fresh air to see ordinary citizens get their chance to be involved in shaping state policy. In the past, transitions have normally been carried-out by the politicians and their friends from the winning side.

From my perspective, the participants worked hard to produce results for the benefit of the state as a whole rather than from some narrow political ideology. It was great to see people from opposite sides of the spectrum sit down and work out their differences to find solutions that will benefit everyone. Topics that had been off the table for some time were openly discussed in an atmosphere of respect. For once it felt like true democracy was being practiced. Not like the gridlock that we have become accustomed to seeing on a daily basis.

I was invited to be on the team making recommendations on Arctic Policy. Others on the team included: Mayor Charlotte Brower, North Slope Borough; Mayor Reggie Joule, Northwest Arctic Borough; and Matt Ganley, Sr. Vice President with Bering Straits Native Corporation. Joining us on the team were Alaskans with backgrounds in business, environmental, and academia. Our moderator was Craig Fleener, an Athabaskan Indian from Fort Yukon, who once worked with Gwitchin' Council International (GCI). GCI is one of the indigenous organizations represented at the Arctic Council. Fleener was recently appointed Special Advisor to the Governor on Arctic Policy.

In the end, I believe there was hope for a better future and a sense of working together to make real solutions for the problems and issues facing our people. This feeling of hope has been a long time coming. With this spirit of hope, I wish everyone a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

## **Arctic Biodiversity Congress Report**



By ICC Alaska Staff



ICC Chair Okalik Eegeesiak, takes a break from the Arctic Biodiversity Congress sessions, to share a quick laugh with Aile Javo, Saami Council President, and Gunn-Britt Retter, Saami Council representative. Photo by International Institute for Sustainable Development.

On December 2-4, 2014 approximately 450 people came together to discuss biodiversity, conservation, and much more at the Arctic Biodiversity Congress (Congress) in Trondheim, Norway. Among the attendees were scientists, environmental NGOs, industry representatives, decision and policy makers, and Arctic indigenous representatives, including Qaiyaan Harcharek of the North Slope Borough and Jackie Levi of Lower Kalskag.

The Congress was co-hosted by the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), one of six working groups under the Arctic Council, and the Norwegian Government. The Congress was a step in the development of an implementation plan for the 17 recommendations that came out of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA). The ABA, released in 2013, is a longer-term assessment report with the intention of creating a baseline of the status of Arctic animals and plants and to further understand changes occurring within the Arctic and inform monitoring programs.

During an opening panel discussion of the Congress, ICC Chair Okalik Eegeesiak, provided comments focused on the need to invest in, "...our communities so that we can benefit from the development and better prepare ourselves for adapting to the changes occurring." Part of this investment has to do with research and how research is being conducted. Okalik discussed the need to utilize traditional knowledge through a co-production of knowledge approach and to look to Permanent Participants for guidance in how to do this. ICC has continuously offered the strong need to develop projects and research based on both traditional knowledge and science, where appropriate, and to implement a co-production of knowledge approach throughout the Arctic Council. During the Congress, ICC co-hosted a session on the use of Traditional Knowledge in international arenas, such as the United Nations and the Arctic Councils. Within this session we provided a presentation on the co-production of knowledge approach; emphasizing that this approach goes beyond translating TK into science but instead respects both bodies of knowledge as unique and important to understanding the changes occurring throughout the Arctic so that true effective adaptation plans may be made.

In another session, on the evaluation of ecosystem services, ICC again stressed that Inuit hold their own methodologies and approaches through a presentation on Inuit understanding of ecosystem services. This presentation highlighted the holistic approach taken by Inuit in asking questions and making observations of the environment around them. Most importantly it stressed that the Inuit culture is part of the ecosystem and cannot be teased out to evaluate what benefits only humans. This holistic approach has a lot to offer science in aiding to bridge social and natural sciences. In addition, ICC strongly stressed the challenges of asserting that there is one value system within discussions about the Arctic.

In Qaiyaan Harcharek's presentation on the importance of fishing in the Barrow area, he touched upon conservation through use and traditional management practices still in use. For example, when you have filled your freezer with enough fish for your household, the excess fish is used to feed additional members of the community unable to fish for themselves or to use excess fish for trading and bartering for additional resources needed. Qayaain also stressed the importance of fishing for people in Barrow, sharing that fish have allowed Inuit to adapt to the dynamic Arctic environment for thousands of years. Today, Qaiyaan said, there are many changes occurring that are impacting Inuit. Regardless of the changes occurring Inuit will adapt.

Jackie Levi and colleague Beth Kersey provided examples of the many changes impacting Lower Kalskag in their presentation on exploring locally driven adaptation strategies to climate and environmental change: experiences from western Alaska. Jackie talked about the huge changes occurring within her village such as an increase in rain and warmer temperatures. For example, erosion has increased to the point that Jackie has lost 30ft from her summer camp since 2003. In looking at all the changes occurring Jackie and Beth have worked together to look at food security in Lower Kalskag and ways of addressing how to get more food if they are not allowed to catch salmon. Last year, they began a community garden and utilized traditional management rules to implement the food. In other words, they provided the fruits of the crops to all those in need first and then throughout the community. They also discussed the impact of addressing food security issues in culturally inappropriate

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## U.S. Unveils Its Chairmanship Program

#### By ICC Alaska Staff

The U.S. presented the program for its 2015-17 Arctic Council (AC) chairmanship last October at the Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) meeting in Yellowknife, NT. The program is expansive and aggressive and closely follows the U.S. Arctic Policy unveiled over a year ago.

The program is not without some controversy. Both the State of Alaska and industry believe it's not friendly enough towards resource development while environmentalists believe it doesn't go far enough in protecting the environment. Recent elections within the U.S. at the state and national level could result in the U.S. chairmanship becoming a pawn in this political struggle.

It's important to remember that the program is still in development and needs to be vetted within the AC and with other stakeholders. This means the program can be changed during this vetting process. The U.S. team led by retired Coast Guard Admiral, Robert Papp, is now busily taking the program on the road seeking input and support.

The chairmanship brand is "One Arctic: Shared Opportunities, Challenges and Responsibilities". One Arctic comes from the 2014 ICC General Assembly and shows unity among the Arctic states and peoples. Shared Opportunities, Challenges and Responsibilities shows that everyone, not just the Arctic states, shares in responsibly managing the region.

The U.S. team is: AC Chair, Secretary of State John Kerry; Chairmanship Coordinator, Robert Papp; Advisor on Science and Policy, Fran Ulmer; SAO, Julie Gourley; Chair of the SAO's, yet to be determined. It's rumored an Arctic indigenous person will join the team.

The program has three overarching themes: strengthen the AC as an intergovernmental forum; introduce new long-term priorities; raise Arctic and climate change awareness in the U.S. and globally. The program is organized under three topics: addressing impacts of Arctic climate change; stewardship of the Arctic Ocean; improving economic and living conditions in the Arctic.

#### Addressing Arctic Climate Change Impacts

**Short-lived climate pollutants:** Full implementation of recommendations from the Black Carbon and Methane Task Force and the Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Task Force in all Arctic states. Encourage AC observer states whose emissions affect the Arctic to also comply.

Arctic states to develop black carbon inventories identifying contributing sectors and tracking progress in reducing emissions with an initial focus on gas flaring.

Increase data collection and monitoring of black carbon emissions through SAON and improve ability to monitor methane releases. **Climate Adaptation and Resilience:** Sweden and U.S. will co-lead the completion of the Arctic Resilience Report, and implement the report's recommendations by all Arctic states.

The Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA-C) project will produce layman reports and fact sheets on high-priority Arctic climate change risks and vulnerabilities.

Create new tools to support local adaptation to address priority climate risks and vulnerabilities. Undertake a "call to action."

**Enhance Arctic Climate Science:** Develop a high-resolution pan-Arctic digital elevation model to improve quality of topographical information. This would tie-in with the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (ASDI), an initiative led by the mapping agencies of the Arctic states.

Develop an Early Warning Indicator System to each Arctic state linked into a single pan-Arctic network. The system would contain changes in key physical, biological, social and economic indicators related to climate impacts.

#### **Stewardship of the Arctic Ocean**

**Marine Protected Areas Network:** Continue work to evaluate possibilities for developing a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas. Set an Arctic-wide target for protecting marine areas for the Arctic.

Examine different models of marine protected areas, utilizing ecosystem-based management of human activities such as: subsistence hunting and fishing; commercial fishing; shipping; oil and gas development; mining; tourism; and other activities.

**Regional Seas Program (RSP) for the Arctic Ocean:** Consider whether a RSP would be useful to improve Arctic Ocean management. An RSP could serve to coordinate scientific research, manage increasing human activity, and promote safe maritime operations. An RSP could organize the growing body of hard and soft law applicable to the Arctic Ocean.

**Marine Environmental Protection:** Share information on: impacts of hazardous substances; mechanical recovery efficacy; and in-situ burning in open water, broken ice, and hard packed ice.

Share oil-spill preparedness and response capabilities and continue development of specialized pollution response resources and operational guidelines for response in broken ice and covered ice areas.

**Search and Rescue (SAR) Exercises:** Conduct a tabletop SAR exercise to identify resources and specific actions to include in a live exercise. If feasible, conduct a full-scale live SAR exercise. Target dates are May 2015 for the tabletop

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## **Chairs Message**

J. Okalik Eegeesiak

Dear colleagues and friends,

Happy New Year to all!

ICC's objective is to support the interests of Inuit from across Inuit Nunaat in international activities. We speak on issues such as economic development, scientific

research, transportation and environmental protection. More importantly we work to put forward Inuit perspectives in international forums on issues of more immediate importance to Inuit, such as mental and physical health, education, food security, housing, traditional livelihoods and employment, and opportunities for youth.

We are starting 2015 with our ICC Executive Council Meeting in Nuuk, Greenland on January 12-14 to share Inuit perspectives from Chukotka, Alaska, Canada and Greenland. The *Kitigaaryuit Declaration* provides us with an ambitious mandate and we will discuss strategies for implementing it in the coming year. We will also take stock of trends, issues and accomplishments.

The New Year will bring new challenges and new accomplishments. ICC will be organizing summits on Economic Development, Education and Wildlife Management. Canada will conclude its chairmanship of the Arctic Council and the USA will take over with an ambitious new program. ICC needs to ensure that we share the Inuit vision at the upcoming Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Iqaluit in April, and at several other important events. I look forward to building upon the Inuit network as we search for cooperative solutions to shared challenges.

As always, I welcome your views on matters that might need my attention. As ICC Chair I am honored to work on your behalf, and on behalf of all Inuit in Inuit Nunaat. My best wishes for 2015.

Aingai,

J. Okalik Eegeesiak

## Final Regional Food Security Workshop Held in Bethel

On November 18-19, 30 Traditional Knowledge holder delegates from across the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) region came together to evaluate and validate the preliminary findings that lay out what Inuit food security is and what the overarching drivers of food in/security are. The delegates were collectively nominated by the 56 Tribal Councils



of the region, based on their Traditional Knowledge and the ability to contribute to this important Inuit lead project. Throughout 2014 we have held similar workshops in Barrow, Kotzebue, and Nome as an important part of the overall ICC-AK food security project, *Building a Conceptual Framework on How to Assess Food Security from an Alaska Inuit Perspective.* 

The Bethel workshop was a huge success and we are very grateful to all of the Traditional Knowledge holder delegates that took part. We are also grateful to AVCP, Orutsararmiut Native Council, the Cultural Center, the AC, Calista Corporation, Donlin Gold, ConocoPhillips and all of the note takers and translators for making this final workshop possible. Thank you!

Now that the workshops have all been held the information is being pulled together along with all of the input from Traditional Knowledge holders to complete the final product. With success of receiving a grant recently submitted, we will bring together the project's advisory committee this spring for a final review of the report and to put in motion the last steps for the youth members photo journal on food security. We anticipate the project being complete in April. Q

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The second day of the workshop focused on setting priorities for the organization and concluded with discussion on internal priorities relating to the sustainability of the organization.

Advocating for Inuit food security, which was the top priority in the previous term, remained as the organization's top priority. During this term, the focus of the effort will be on improving fish and game co-management structures and to plan for the Inuit Wildlife Summit, which is an international gathering of Inuit on the topic of wildlife. Finally, ICC Alaska will work to follow up on the recommendations that resulted from the food security research project, "How to Assess Food Security from an Inuit Perspective: Building a Conceptual Framework on How to Assess Food Security in the Alaskan Arctic."

The second priority for ICC-Alaska is to ensure Inuit perspective, concerns and interests are represented at the Arctic Council. Within the Arctic Council, ICC-Alaska will focus on bringing attention to Inuit concerns regarding Arctic marine shipping, the need for the US to ratify the UN Convention on the Law of



Vivian Korthuis, Board member representing the Association of the Village Council Presidents, leading a small group discussion on organizational priorities. Photo by ICC Alaska.

the Sea, bring attention the high energy to costs in the Arctic, and the need to improve telecommunications. ICC-Alaska will also work to promote Inuit health and wellbeing, including bringing attention to the need to address pollutants/ contaminants, the high rate of suicide, water and sanitation issues and generally improve living conditions in the Arctic. Finally, ICC-Alaska will work to address climate change with a focus on adaptation and sustainability.

Building upon and promoting the implementation of the Alaska Inuit Education Improvement Strategy was set as the third priority. The Education Strategy was developed in the previous term based on workshop results from the ICC Alaska Education Workshop held in Nome in April. The workshop brought Inuit educators and practioners to develop recommendations for improving Inuit education in Alaska. The priority also includes preparing for the Inuit Education Summit, which was an unfinished ICC mandate during the 2010-2014 term. The Summit remains on the ICC work plan for this term.

Other priorities include promoting the utilization of traditional knowledge, engaging youth in ICC, promoting Inuit health and well-being and encouraging sustainable economic development in the Arctic. Internal priorities relating to organizational sustainability and revitalization were discussed including identifying sustainable funding, improving communications and fully engaging member organizations. There was also a long discussion on leadership development and succession and how to get youth engaged in the organization to build organizational capacity. Special priorities highlighted in the strategic plan include planning for the Barrow General Assembly in 2018 and the Alaskan Chairmanship of ICC in the 2018-2022 term.

The strategic plan was drafted based on workshop results and approved by the ICC Alaska Executive Committee in December. You can find the strategic plan on our website: www.iccalaska.org



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ways. For example, providing food that people are unfamiliar with and had no part in obtaining.

Throughout ICC's session and presentation, Jackie and Qaiyaan's presentations, there was a continuous theme of the need to respect that Inuit have their own process for determining trade offs, management, and hold an overall value system that should not be over ridden by the value systems and needs of more dominant cultures. For example, in a discussion about conservation, people must remember that Inuit have multiple conservation practices and their interaction with life around them is crucial to maintaining these practices. This point leads to an explanation of conservation through use; the need for stronger comanagement practices to safe guard the Arctic; and the need to honor the value systems of Arctic indigenous peoples; and again to respect Inuit traditional knowledge as equal to science.

The ABA implementation plan will be finished by this spring. For additional information about the ABA, the implementation plan, or CAFF please contact our office.

## An Update on WCIP

#### By Hjalmar Dahl, ICC Greenland

The high-level plenary meeting of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP), was held 22-23 September 2014 at the UN headquarters in New York City. The decision to hold the meeting was made by UN General Assembly Resolution on December 21, 2010.

In January 2012 a brainstorming meeting was held in Copenhagen to discuss how indigenous people should be involved in the preparation process of the conference. Indigenous peoples representatives from all seven regions of the world attended the meeting. Hjalmar Dahl attended on behalf of the Arctic and ICC. The decision at the meeting was that the indigenous peoples should be involved in the process, prior, during and after the WCIP14. A Global Coordinating Group (GCG) was established and its members were chosen from the seven regions of the world. Hjalmar Dahl was elected as the member to represent the Arctic along with a Sami representative. The GCG was active until the WCIP14 was convened. Prior to the conference, an Arctic Preparatory Conference dealing with issues related to the coming outcome document was held in Nuuk, Greenland in October 2012 and a Global Indigenous Conference was held in Alta, Norway in June 2013. The Alta conference resulted in a document called the Alta Declaration. A considerable number of Arctic leaders attended all conferences including the World Conference 22-23 September at the UN Headquarters in New York City. The high-level plenary meeting resulted in a Resolution, which was adopted unanimously by the UN member states.

Generally, indigenous peoples representatives including the Inuit delegation are mostly satisfied with the Outcome Document, because of the clear commitments by the UN member states in this important document, which needs to be followed up as quickly as possible.

ICC was invited to attend the Nordic Expert meeting on the follow-up to the WCIP in Helsinki on December 16. The Nordic countries have committed themselves to be active on the follow-up issues. We recommended several articles to focus on first including Article 28 regarding improvement of the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples so it can be more effective to promote respect for the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including better assisting member states of the UN to monitor, evaluate and improve the achievement in the end of the Declaration. In this regard the ICC along the Sami representatives and other indigenous organizations, are planning to arrange an open-ended meeting in Geneva in late February to further discuss how to reach the UN Human Rights Council and then next the UN General Assembly to implement the Article 28 as the first priority. In addition, we recommended participation of Indigenous Peoples representatives and institutions in relevant sessions of the United Nations bodies on issues affecting indigenous peoples have been given high priority (Art. 33 and 40 of the WCIP Outcome Document). We agreed to focus on those articles as first step in doing efforts to implement the Outcome Document.

For more detailed information: www.wcip2014.org 🔘

## **Greenland Government Holds Elections**

By ICC Alaska Staff

Elections were held on November 28 in Greenland following a vote of no confidence for the previous government led by Premier Aleqa Hammond from Siumut. The November election resulted in 11 seats for both Siumut and Inuit Ataqatigiit, 4 for Demokratiit, 3 for Naleraq, and 2 for Atassut. In all there are 31 members of the Landsting.

Siumut received the most votes barely edging Inuit Ataqatigiit by a little more than 300 votes. This slight advantage gave Siumut the right to lead discussions to create a new government. After talks with the other 4 political parties, Siumut formed a new coalition government composed of Siumut, Demokratiit, and Atassut (17 members). Inuit Ataqatigiit and Naleraq are in opposition (14 members).

Kim Kielsen, Siumut, was elected Premier. Siumut holds 4 Ministries: Foreign Affairs, Business, Labor and Trade; Fishing, Hunting and Agriculture; Social, Family and Gender Equality; Health and Nordic Affairs. Demokratiit holds 2 Ministries: Finances and Resources; Culture, Education, Research and Church. Atassut holds two Ministries: Housing, Construction and Infrastructure; Natural Environment and Judiciary. Lars-Emil Johanssen, Siumut, was elected Chairman of the Landsting.

The main sticking point between the new government and the opposition parties was over the mining of uranium. The opposition parties wanted a national referendum on whether uranium mining should be allowed. The new government believes that issue has already been settled.



and summer 2016 for the live exercise. A report with recommendations for improving SAR coordination will be submitted to SAOs.

**Arctic Ocean Acidification:** Enhance monitoring of Arctic Ocean acidification. Educate the public about ocean acidification: its economic impacts on fisheries; its impacts on the ecosystem; its ties to climate change; and why it's more dramatic in the Arctic Ocean than other oceans.

#### **Improving Economic and Living Conditions**

**Renewable Energy Demonstrations:** Expand the U.S. Remote Communities Renewable Energy partnership across the Arctic to show feasibility of village electrification through clean renewable energy. Seek help from other Arctic states to develop and implement new technologies, possibly through public-private partnerships.

**Community Sanitation and Public Health:** Expand the Alaska Water and Sewer Challenge to find better affordable ways to deliver drinking water and sewage disposal services to remote cold climate communities. Expand this effort in 2016 to other Arctic states by hosting a world-wide conference to attract investment in clean, safe, affordable and reliable water and sewage services in remote Arctic communities.

Arctic Water Resources Vulnerability Index (AWRVI): The AWRVI is an assessment tool for addressing community resilience and vulnerability with respect to freshwater. It was designed by the University of Alaska for use by local authorities. It will be adapted for Arctic-wide use.

**Freshwater Security:** As a part of the AACA-C project, the Arctic Freshwater Synthesis (AFS) will be promoted publicly as a first look at the freshwater situation in the Arctic. Eventually the AFS could serve as the basis for a comprehensive Arctic Freshwater Assessment, perhaps during the Finnish chairmanship.

**Suicide Prevention and Resilience:** Propose to create a common, science-based system of metrics to track suicidal behaviors and key correlates, interventions, and outcomes across Arctic states. Will use a new initiative designed by the U.S. Institute of Mental Health, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The initiative is titled Reducing the Incidence of Suicide in Indigenous Groups - Strengths United through Networks (RISING SUN).

**Telecommunications Infrastructure:** Establish a telecommunications infrastructure expert group within SDWG to conduct an Arctic-wide assessment. The assessment would be presented to the International Telecommunications Union and the private sector to promote build-out of the infrastructure.

#### **Strengthening the Arctic Council**

**Archiving Project:** The U.S. will continue this project and complete it by the U.S. Ministerial meeting.

**Internal Structure:** The SAO Chair could lead a SAO review of the Council's internal structure to see if it meets our needs.

**Organizational Issues:** The SAO Chair could lead a SAO discussion on matters such as: how to use products by non-AC entities; how to relate to outside bodies; and an early SAO meeting with working group chairs (June 2015) to make sure projects are on schedule.

#### **Public Outreach**

Outside of the AC, the U.S. will conduct an extensive outreach campaign to: educate the U.S. public on the strategic importance of the Arctic; educate the U.S. public about climate change impacts in the Arctic and how they affect the U.S.; educate the global public how the Arctic affects them.

#### **Other Activities**

Arctic Fulbright Initiative (AFI): The U.S. will launch the AFI near the April AC Ministerial meeting and it will conclude at the end of the U.S. chairmanship. The U.S. is hopeful the AFI will continue beyond its chairmanship.

**IMO Polar Code:** The IMO Polar Code is expected to be finalized in 2015. The U.S. proposes to develop Phase II of the Polar Code to consider regulations for non-SOLAS ships, and additional recommendatory guidelines for ships operating in polar waters.

**Model Arctic Councils:** This would be held in cooperation with the University of Alaska during SAO meetings in Alaska. University students would be involved in mock Arctic Council forums.

In mid-December the SAOs and Permanent Participants met telephonically three times to discuss the U.S. program. There were a lot of questions and suggestions made at these meetings. This process will continue as the April Ministerial meeting looms ever closer.



## **Meet ICC's New Council Members**





#### Martha Abelsen-Greenland

Martha Abelsen was born in 1957 in Nuuk, Greenland. She is educated as a Kindergarten teacher and received further education in management. Has worked since 1979 in the administration of Greenland Government within the social and health area. Martha is a member of municipal council in Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq. She was elected as Chairman of the municipal association Kalaallit Nunaanni Kommunit Kattuffiat, Kanukoka in 2010 and an ICC Greenland delegate. Martha serves as a member of the ICC Executive Council representing Greenland.



#### Yelena Kaminskaya – Chukotka

Yelena Kaminskaya was born in the village of New Chaplino, in the Providenya district, located in the Chukotka region of Russia. She is Siberian Yupik. After graduating from high school in New Chaplino she entered the pedagogical school in Anadyr, Chukotka. After graduation she moved back home where she has worked as a primary school teacher ever since.

Yelena is divorced with two sons, Andrew and Vladimir and she adopted her daughter, Valeria, in 1997. Yelena is active in the daily life of her community. She enjoys sports: volleyball, biking, basketball, and skiing. She also enjoys trekking in the tundra gathering wild plants. She actively collects historical and ethnographic materials on her region. Yelena is highly respected by the elders and youth in the community for her leadership.



#### Herb Nakimayak – Canada

Herb Nakimayak was born in Inuvik and raised in Paulatuk, Northwest Territories in a traditional Inuit lifestyle. He lives in Edmonton, Alberta. He currently works for Raytheon Corporation as Zone Manager, operating 11 radar sites from Inuvik on a 6-week rotational basis, allowing him time to devote to ICC. Herb has two daughters, Madeline and Grace.

Herb has a diverse work and personal history including: working for Parks Canada advocating for indigenous involvement; facilitating workshops on Climate Change Adaptation with Arctic North Consulting; helping develop the Paulatuk Development Corporation; and serving as a counselor with the Hamlet of Paulatuk. Herb is committed to continuing Inuit traditional ways of life. His experience is invaluable in implementing positive programs for Inuit.

## Check Out Our Website

## www.iccalaska.org

"DRUM" is now online!



INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL

**ALASKA OFFICE** 

3900 ARCTIC BLVD, **SUITE 203** ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

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#### You too can support our efforts!

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