



Report on ICC Activities 2010-2014

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Attachment: 2011 “A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat”

Report on ICC Activities 2010-2014

1. Introduction

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) has risen to the many challenges that Inuit delegates, gathered at the ICC General Assembly (GA) in Nuuk, Greenland in July 2010, set for it. This document describes the activities that we have undertaken over the last four years, in anticipation of the ICC's 12th General Assembly in Inuvik, Canada. This report is produced for the membership of ICC, represented in Inuvik by Inuit delegates from Chukotka, Alaska, Canada, and Greenland.

Although the ICC Charter empowers the Executive Council to represent Inuit on any international matter that comes its way, it has taken primary guidance and direction from the Inuit delegates who adopted the 2010 Nuuk Declaration. As such, this report looks closely at what we have accomplished in the context of the Declaration's 54 directives, as well as new challenges that arose after 2010.

ICC has accomplished tasks that seemed impossible four years ago, thanks to close cooperation between the ICC offices under the direction of their respective Presidents and under the overall guidance of the ICC Chair. Our organization's spirit and its original vision was created in 1977 when Eben Hopson, Sr. first invited Inuit from across the Arctic to meet in Alaska, who committed to work collectively on matters of importance to Inuit. It is this spirit that has allowed us to achieve so much over the past four years.

A brief selection from the long list of significant activities undertaken by ICC from 2010-2014 includes:

- Conducting a major study on food security and participating in numerous projects and initiatives related to this issue, which is central to our Inuit culture;
- Addressing Inuit health and wellness issues;
- Adopting and promoting *A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat* following an Inuit Leaders' Summit on Arctic Resource Development;



Circumpolar Inuit Leaders' Summit on Resource Development delegates. Photo credit: ICC Canada

- Opposing the European Union (EU) seal ban in European courts and in public statements and actions;
- Consulting with Inuit from Chukotka, Alaska, Canada and Greenland about sea ice and Arctic shipping in order to present their voices and concerns to the Arctic Council as a response to the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA);
- Speaking out on behalf of our rights as Inuit through the various human rights mechanisms of the United Nations (UN) and in other international, national, and regional fora;
- Contributing to the successful negotiations of the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
- Leading, on behalf of the Arctic Council and the other Arctic indigenous peoples' organizations, the multi-year, circumpolar "Assessing, Monitoring, and Promoting the Vitality of Arctic Indigenous Languages" project; and
- Advocating for better inclusion of traditional knowledge into various international organizations.

Although ICC's core mandate relates to international concerns of Inuit (and most of our work is therefore on the international level), each country office sets national priorities particular to their unique context. For example, ICC Alaska emphasized food security over the past four years because Inuit in Alaska do not have the same rights to manage resources as Inuit in Greenland and Canada. ICC Greenland focused on resource development and facilitated community hearings to exercise indigenous rights to "free, prior and informed consent" before new resource extraction sites are opened in Inuit Nunaat. ICC Canada developed particular expertise in the areas of contaminants and Inuit health. The national offices worked together on many other projects on an equal basis.

While some tasks require ongoing efforts to fulfill a long-term vision and will be passed on to the next ICC Executive Council to continue, ICC treated its specific mandates from the Nuuk Declaration and the ICC Charter seriously. Through regular contact with its local membership (including annual meetings in each country office, as well as country-specific board meetings), ICC took local issues to the international arena and also back home – to you, our most important audience. We also achieved our objectives over the past four years through regular telephone and face-to-face meetings of the Executive Council.



The leadership and exceptional career of Greenlander and outgoing ICC Chair, Aqqaluk Lynge, whose uninterrupted continuous service on the ICC Executive Council since 1980 is unparalleled, warrants particular mention. His contemplations on the future of ICC, and of Inuit more generally, conclude this report.

2. The Arctic Council

One of the most important fora for ICC's advocacy work on behalf of Inuit is the Arctic Council. Because many of the activities described in other sections of this report took place at the Arctic Council (including its six working groups and several task forces), this section of the report provides an overview and explanation of the Arctic Council and why it is such an important cross-cutting forum for us as Inuit.

The Arctic Council brings together the eight Arctic states and indigenous peoples organizations to discuss and negotiate matters of direct relevance to all of us across Inuit Nunaat. ICC is one of six Permanent Participants, a status reserved for international indigenous peoples' organizations in the Arctic Council. This status allows for ICC to sit at the same table and contribute in the same manner as ministers, senior governmental officials, and Arctic Council working group members. In order to achieve maximum benefit from the opportunities created by this structure, which is unique among all the international forums, ICC places a high priority on participating constructively in the varied work of the Arctic Council.



Inuit leaders pose for a photo at the Arctic Council Ministerial
L to R: Jim Stotts, ICC Alaska President; Kuupik Kleist, Greenland Government Premier; Floyd Roland, Northwest Territories Government Premier; Eva Aariak, Nunavut Government Premier; Carl Christian Olsen (Puju), ICC Greenland President; Leona Aglukkaq, Canada Minister of Health; Aqqaluk Lynge, ICC Chair; and Duane Smith, ICC Canada President
Photo credit: Duane Smith

ICC contributes Inuit knowledge and expertise to all six working groups and various task forces as they carry out important assessments, projects and consultations directly related to Inuit concerns. The six working groups are the Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP), the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME), Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), and the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPPR).

Task forces are less permanent bodies of the Council, but are equally significant to the work of ICC. Important task forces in which ICC participated and contributed over the past four years covered issues such as oil spill prevention and response, black carbon and methane, creation of a circumpolar business forum, institutional restructuring, and scientific research cooperation. ICC's contributions to working groups and task forces are described in greater detail in later sections of this report.

In addition to involvement in and contribution to the working groups and related activities, ICC attends the Arctic Council's ministerial meetings held every two years as well as the Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) meetings convened two to three times per year. As such, Inuit interests are well represented and advanced at the political level as well as in the technical working groups.

ICC takes on leadership roles at the Arctic Council from time to time. In the past four years, ICC led the following initiatives:

- Serving as Vice-Chair of the SDWG over the past four years;
- Leading a multi-year circumpolar initiative on *Assessing, Monitoring, and Promoting the Vitality of Arctic Indigenous Languages*, also within the SDWG;
- Heading up the *Circumpolar Inuit Response to the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment* project so that Inuit hunters and fishers could share their expertise and concerns about changing sea ice and increased Arctic shipping ;
- Co-sponsoring the *Arctic Council Mental Health and Wellness* project;
- Co-leading/sponsoring the project *Review of Cancer Among Circumpolar Indigenous Peoples*;
- Serving on the Board and Executive Committee of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON);
- Serving on the executive body and integration team of *Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic* (AACA); and
- Initiating work on the inclusion of traditional knowledge with science into all projects of the Arctic Council, including its working groups and task forces.

3. Resource Development

Acting on the direction of the delegates of the 2010 GA and the ICC Executive Council's assessment that Arctic resource development is an urgent issue, we convened an Inuit



Photo credit: Carole Simon

Leaders' Summit on the subject within the first year of the Nuuk mandate. Resource development in the Arctic affects virtually every aspect of our life, from the broad question of sovereignty over our lands and seas, to economic development in our communities, right down to the fundamental pillar of living sustainably off the land and sea – a core right which will be threatened if resource development is done without regard for Inuit and the fish, sea mammals and animals upon which we rely. Because this issue matches precisely the ICC mandate to address international issues that impact us on the local level, as reiterated in the

Nuuk Declaration, we convened a pan-Arctic Inuit Leaders' Summit on Arctic Resource Development in 2011 to develop a common circumpolar Inuit position on environmental, economic, social and cultural assessment processes related to resource development in the Arctic.

Building on the important presentations and deliberations at the summit, we drafted *A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat*. The Declaration is a collective Inuit statement on how the Arctic's resources should be treated, who should have access to them, and under what conditions. The resource declaration builds upon the provisions of the 2009 *A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic*, as well as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It begins with a preamble, a declarative section of nine foundational statements, and then a section of ten detailed declarations on how we would like to work with those having an interest in our homeland. In the preamble, the reader is reminded that there will be positive and negative impacts as the Arctic seas open and resources are taken. It stresses that setting an appropriate pace for development is essential to Inuit well-being and that "[in] the weighing of impacts and benefits, those who face the greatest and longest-lasting impacts must have the greatest opportunities, and a primary place in the decision-making". The Declaration is clearly open to partnerships on Inuit terms, and ends with an invitation to those who "seek a role in the governance, management, development, or the use" of our resources to "conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of this Declaration".

Following ICC's launch of the resource development declaration, just prior to the Arctic Council's meeting of Foreign Ministers in Nuuk, Greenland in May 2011, all ICC offices began to present and promote the declaration at every opportunity: local, regional, state, national, international, public and private, including meetings with industry and others. For example, ICC's Greenland office arranged an information tour to the main cities on the west coast of Greenland to raise awareness of the declaration and how it applies to people on the ground.



Arctic Council Foreign Ministers' Meeting,
Nuuk, Greenland, May 2011

Through its Canada office, ICC analyzed the provisions of the declaration within the Canadian context, developed language on "Implementing the Arctic Resource Declaration", and entered into dialogue with Canadian government officials. ICC also promoted the declaration at the meeting on "Canada's North 2011 – Towards Sustainability", the Arctic Council workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility in January 2012, the Arctic Conference at the University of Copenhagen in March 2012, the Canada — United States Northern Oil and Gas Research Forum, and in numerous other presentations, reports, and newsletters. Like the 2009 *A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic*, the 2011 *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat* has become a core ICC position statement and one that is referred to virtually any time a subject related to resource development arises.

As this report explains, the ICC Chair, Vice-Chairs, Executive Council members and staff participate in many international meetings, workshops and task forces on a range of subjects of concern to Inuit. Some of these meetings focus on policy while others are more

technical. Technical projects related to resource development in which ICC participated included: the International Polar Year (IPY) 2012 Conference, where ICC brought up resource development as a key issue; the ArcticNet Integrated Regional Impact Studies (IRIS), where ICC promoted Inuit perspectives; and the Task Force to Create a Circumpolar Business Forum (now named the Arctic Economic Council).

In one particular initiative, ICC Greenland cooperated with World Wildlife Fund Denmark to host a conference titled “Sustainability or Barbarism?” at the Danish parliament in January 2011. The conference was arranged as an open debate between Northern hunters and decision-makers and southern representatives of animal rights and environmental organizations. ICC Chair Aqqaluk Lynge’s speech at the conference launched a series of meetings between the two organizations that yielded a joint project on “promoting public consultation and participation in the industrial development in Greenland”. The project ran from 2012-2014, generating various sub-reports dealing with past and present mining operations, comparative studies of administration, land ownership, public involvement, and international conventions.

Delegates at the 2010 General Assembly in Nuuk mandated ICC to undertake several other initiatives related to non-renewable resources, which build upon the *Declaration on Resource Development Principles* and are integral to implementing its directives. The Nuuk Declaration instructs ICC to demand education and training of Inuit so that we can participate significantly in resource development, along with equitable sharing of royalties and other benefits of development in Inuit Nunaat. Such training is already taking place at the Greenlandic School of Resources in Sisimiut, Greenland.

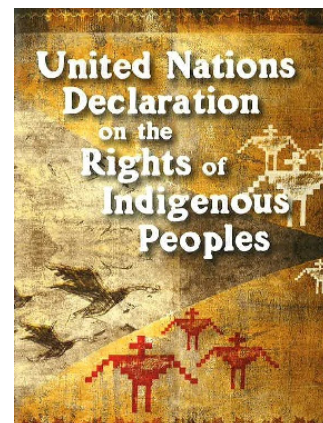
In an initiative specific to Greenland offshore oil drilling, ICC Greenland successfully encouraged oil companies operating in the area to offer a training course for Greenlandic marine mammal and seabird observers related to seismic surveys, so Inuit could observe first-hand the effects of seismic activity on the sea mammals and birds. ICC’s Greenland office commissioned several reports from an oil expert on offshore oil drilling issues in Greenland to further the dialogue between ICC and the Government of Greenland with the goal of strengthening standards for offshore oil development. Additionally, ICC attended workshops of the Arctic Council Health, Safety and Environmental Management Systems Project for Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Operations organized by the PAME working group.

4. **United Nations and Indigenous Rights**

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), since its adoption in 2007, has served as a foundation supporting the ongoing efforts of indigenous peoples to express and assert our fundamental rights. ICC was heavily involved in the lengthy, twenty-four year process of conceptualizing, drafting and promoting the UNDRIP. Then we supported and urged all of the Arctic states to endorse the UNDRIP, with Canada and the United States (US) eventually endorsing in 2010 – leaving Russia as the final hold out. Now the mandate of ICC, together with indigenous peoples’ organizations around the world, is to hold states accountable for what they have signed and to urge them to fully

adopt and implement the UNDRIP. This will be an enormous, ongoing task. The gap between the principles of UNDRIP and the actual ways in which states and corporations interact with indigenous peoples remains very wide in many cases.

Since the last ICC General Assembly, where the session on governance presented the key provisions of the UNDRIP, ICC has continued to increase awareness about UNDRIP among Inuit. ICC contributed to the reprinting of the UN Declaration Handbook and distributed copies through the ICC Alaska office and to Inuit regional organizations and schools in Canada. ICC produced a booklet about UNDRIP in Greenland and arranged a series of informational sessions along the west coast of Greenland to inform people about the declaration and how it applies to them. The ICC Chair is also part of a Working Group to produce a handbook about UNDRIP for Greenland parliamentarians.



While having all Arctic states (except Russia) adopt UNDRIP was a great accomplishment for indigenous peoples, ICC notes with regret that the US and Canada attached significant qualifications to their signature, which weaken their commitment to fully implementing and applying UNDRIP. In Greenland, ICC engaged legal counsel to analyze the compatibility of UNDRIP with domestic legislation. ICC Greenland called its delegation together for a working session in autumn 2012 to present the analysis report on the relationship between UNDRIP and Greenland self-government law. This report was finalized in August 2013 and delivered to the Government of Greenland. ICC Canada participates in an *ad hoc* committee with other indigenous groups and non-governmental organizations to develop strategies and issue joint letters urging the Canadian government to implement the provisions. ICC Alaska met with USA government officials to discuss issues surrounding UNDRIP, and has written to Washington to express its regret that the qualifications accompanying the USA signature have weakened the central thrust of UNDRIP.

In the past four years, ICC has continued our strong involvement at the UN. ICC is recognized as an Indigenous Peoples Organization (IPO) within the UN system and received Category II status as a Non-Governmental Organization of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1982. This status gives ICC an opportunity to participate in UN sessions in matters specially related to the rights of indigenous peoples. ICC's Greenland office has led the UN involvement for many years, supported financially by the Foreign Ministry of Denmark. ICC is well known and respected by other indigenous peoples' organizations and nations within the international community, and enjoys partnerships and cooperation from around the world.

As mandated by the delegates at the last GA, ICC continues to represent Inuit at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). The Permanent Forum is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. UNPFII meets annually for a two-week

session at the UN headquarters in New York City. Although indigenous peoples' organizations from around the world attend this annual session, the Permanent Forum itself has 16 members who are appointed as independent experts, half by the UN states and half by indigenous peoples. One of the members appointed by indigenous peoples is



L to R: Aqqaluk Lyngé, ICC Chair; Dalee S. Dorrough, UNPFII Member; Sara Oslvig, ICC Greenland; Yvonne Moorhouse, ICC Canada; Tatiana Achirgina, ICC Chukotka; Kelly Eningowuk, ICC Alaska; and Kirk Ejesiak, ICC Canada.

Photo credit: Tatiana Achirgina

always a representative of the Arctic region. ICC and the Saami Council have an agreement regarding a rotating membership, and we work together closely as an Arctic Caucus during UNPFII sessions. For example, the Arctic Caucus submitted statements on human rights, the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, Health and Culture at the May 2013 UNPFII session. The current Arctic representative is Dr. Dalee S. Dorrough, an Iñupiaq from Alaska, who spoke at the ICC 2010 General Assembly and was elected Chair of UNPFII for 2014-2015

ICC also monitors and contributes to the work of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), which is a subsidiary body of the UN Human Rights Council and works out of the UN's offices in Geneva. ICC Greenland participates each

year in the five-day session of EMRIP to contribute ICC's ideas on which topics should be studied. Since 2010, EMRIP has completed several studies relevant to ICC's mandate in the Nuuk Declaration: extractive industries, indigenous languages and cultures, issues pertaining to the Alta Declaration and the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples, and intellectual property.

The third avenue for ICC to participate at the UN is through the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. From 2010-2014 this role was fulfilled by James Anaya, with whom ICC representatives met several times on issues ranging from Arctic sovereignty to housing. He was recently succeeded by Victoria Tauli-Corpuz from the Philippines. ICC Canada and Inuit from Canada met with Dr. Anaya during his visit to Canada in 2013 and provided a joint statement on Inuit concerns, with a special focus on the Inuit housing situation in Canada. Special Rapporteur Anaya's report reflects ICC's intervention when it highlights that the chronic housing shortage has reached crisis levels. ICC Alaska also met with Dr. Anaya during his visit to Alaska in April 2012 when he held consultations with indigenous groups as a part of his official visit to the US. ICC Alaska co-hosted the event, and the ICC Alaska President was asked to moderate a town hall meeting with Alaskan tribal organizations to make sure all the questions and concerns were heard. Dr. Anaya's *Report on the Status of Indigenous Peoples in the United States* contained a specific Alaska section that highlighted hunting and food security rights.

As the need arises and resources permit, ICC also makes contributions to the UN Universal Periodic Review mechanism, which reviews the human rights records of all 192 UN Member States once every four years. In 2011, ICC Greenland made a written joint

submission to the first Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Denmark together with two Greenlandic NGOs, Hingitaq '53 (The Outcasts of 1953) and Kattuffik Ataata (Association of the “Legally Fatherless”). ICC Greenland was also present during the actual examination at the UN in Geneva. ICC Greenland’s joint submission concentrated on issues of indigenous and human rights and the powers of public government, the situation of the Inughuit indigenous community of the Thule district, and finally on the “legally fatherless”.

In advocating for the rights of indigenous peoples throughout 2010-2014, ICC Greenland constantly reminded both governments of Denmark and Greenland that despite their strong support for UNDRIP and the International Labour Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, actual implementation on the ground was woefully lacking. In particular, ICC Greenland regrets that the devolution and transfer of powers from Denmark to Greenland did not vest human rights or indigenous rights of Inuit of Greenland in the system of public government.

ICC is actively preparing for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) to be held at the US headquarters in September 2014. ICC Greenland has participated in the Global Coordination Group since it was formed in 2012 to secure funding for the preparation and participation of indigenous peoples in WCIP. ICC Alaska and ICC Greenland participated in



Marie Greene presenting the Arctic Caucus statement regarding the Alta Conference action plan. By her side is Saami Council delegate, Aili Keskitalo.

Photo credit: Kirt Ejesiak.

a preparatory meeting, along with the Saami Council in October 2012, which resulted in an “Arctic Declaration”. ICC, together with approximately 50 Inuit from Chukotka, Alaska, Canada and Greenland, and other Arctic representatives, brought the Arctic Declaration to the Indigenous Peoples Conference held in Alta, Norway in June 2013 and advocated for its successful inclusion in the Alta Declaration. ICC Alaska’s top priorities of food security and education were highlighted in the Arctic Declaration, which also included calls for “control by indigenous peoples over developments affecting their territories, waters, coastal waters and other resources [to enable] them to freely pursue their traditional livelihoods and economic, social, and cultural development, including to maintain and strengthen their food security, in accordance with their own aspirations and needs” and recognition of “the need to adopt effective measures to guarantee indigenous peoples and individuals right to the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in international human rights law, including their right to culture, language and education”.

ICC and Inuit are often seen as leaders among indigenous peoples internationally due to the negotiation of self-government and land claims settlements in Greenland, Canada and Alaska. We are still looking forward to a similar process and outcome for Chukotka.

5. Liaison with Governments and International Forums

Because governments have an important impact on our daily lives, ICC liaises with government officials of all eight Arctic states and of other states with interests in the Arctic. ICC monitors the activities of numerous international policy-forming bodies through formal participation in conferences and workshops, as well as speaking with key people informally outside of the sessions. Additionally, ICC meets and cooperates closely with other indigenous peoples' organizations, particularly those from the Arctic (but also globally). Interacting with state governments and working inside international fora are important for building respect and communicating Inuit concerns and, further, are often a necessary step toward securing funding or other support for ICC projects and initiatives.

Delegates will therefore appreciate that ICC leadership met regularly with the delegations of national and region bodies while at international fora at the UN in New York, Geneva and elsewhere. ICC leadership met regularly with indigenous peoples' representatives and these same fora, and with Arctic Ambassadors and various UN Rapporteurs. The EU system regularly invited ICC to meetings in Brussels regarding Arctic environmental issues, in addition to arranging for an EU – Indigenous dialogue on an annual basis. Along these lines, ICC presented at the EU Indigenous Peoples Dialogue in 2013.

In bilateral meetings, the ICC Canada President and Presidents of regional Inuit organizations in Canada met with the Canadian Prime Minister in August 2013 to raise issues of concern and to promote mutually-beneficial partnerships. The ICC leadership met with the Chair of the Arctic Council and other high-ranking officials when Canada took over the Chair in 2013, seeking ways for ICC to partner more closely with the Arctic Council and advance our positions there. ICC also participated in Canada–Norway dialogues and advanced Inuit issues there. In addition to in-person meetings, which may be formally planned or happen informally on the fringes of international fora, ICC frequently wrote formal letters to government officials, international bodies and leaders of other indigenous peoples' organizations, making statements on issues of concern to Inuit or responding to actions that ICC considers detrimental to Inuit concerns. This type of communication was an important part of fulfilling ICC's mandates and speaking out on behalf of all of us – the circumpolar Inuit.

6. Sovereignty Issues

Questions such as “Who owns the Arctic?”, “Who has a right to traverse the Arctic?”, and “Who should have access to the resources of the Arctic?” continue to be posed and debated on the international political stage. For us they remain contentious, not because of the political posturing between Arctic states and Inuit “cheering” for any one of them to win or lose, but because any and every state that stakes a claim to the Arctic must be reminded that this is our homeland: *Inuit Nunaat*. And ICC did so over the past four years. We reminded others that Inuit have lived in this vast territory since before history was recorded and we intend to live here for millennia to come. As such, Arctic states, the international community, and the resource development, shipping and tourism companies who are eager to make money in the Arctic were strongly reminded to acknowledge our long history in the Arctic, to understand that we have the right to benefit from their activities, and to insist that we not be harmed by them.



Photo credit: Lene Kielsen Holm

The matter of sovereignty in the Arctic is one on which ICC works continuously and vigilantly. It is foundational to Inuit life and to all of ICC’s activities, from Inuit intellectual property to contaminants to hunting and fishing to food security to non-renewable resources to shipping.

The issue of sovereignty comes up in different ways. Around 2007, when the international community began to notice that Arctic sea ice was melting and would likely continue to do so, there was a burst of international attention and discussion about new Arctic shipping lanes and who would use them and control them. There was also a great deal of talk about mapping the Arctic continental shelf and how much of the uncharted sea bed could be claimed by each of the states bordering the Arctic Ocean according to rules laid out in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. In this context, ICC adopted the *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic* in 2009 as a way of putting our foot down and reminding the world that these conversations cannot rightfully take place without Inuit. The declaration continued to serve us over the past four years, and ICC principles and directives referred to it on countless occasions.

In particular, ICC determined that Inuit sovereignty over our homeland was being called into question in the key issue areas of non-renewable resource development in the Arctic and the related matter of shipping, as both affect Arctic fish and mammals and therefore Inuit health and food security. As noted earlier, ICC organized a pan-Arctic Inuit Leaders Summit on Arctic Resource Development, which resulted in *A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat*. This declaration built upon the *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic* and applied many of the same principles to the specific matter of resource development. ICC then applied the

provisions of both declarations to shipping in the Arctic, arguing strongly at every opportunity that Inuit must be consulted regarding plans to use the Arctic and that Inuit reliance on the sea, the sea ice and the living resources therein must be recognized and factored into any plans for the Arctic as the first and foremost priority.

7. Hunting and Food Security

Hunting, gathering and fishing are the heart and soul of Inuit life, culturally, economically, physically and spiritually. We rely on hunting, gathering and fishing for much of our physical nutrition -- historically, today, and we will continue to do so into the future. This is why, of all the issues with which ICC deals, the use and management of animals evoke the most passionate engagement at the local level. Inuit are increasingly affected by the rules and regulations of outsiders regarding the sea mammals, land mammals, fish and birds upon which we rely for food and livelihood. Negotiating and advocating on all of these fronts is a task too great for any one organization, so ICC coordinated closely with various regional and national Inuit hunters and fishers associations to fight on behalf of Inuit. ICC, over the past four years, was often the link to international fora for these other organizations.



Inuit use marine mammals, fish, birds and land animals according to our own measures of sustainability. Threats to our continued use raise basic questions of indigenous rights: the right to hunt and the right to govern our own activities or, at a minimum, contribute meaningfully to the establishment and enforcement of regulations affecting our activities. This is why ICC continuously voiced fundamental rights at the various international meetings regarding sustainable use of living resources and also in other international fora on broader issues. For example, ICC tracks the proceedings and

participates at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), and the one-time UN Conference on Sustainable Development (RIO+20).

In the past four years, ICC took action on several specific matters of concern to Inuit regarding sustainable use of living resources in the Arctic. For example, ICC Alaska played a pivotal role in monitoring and sharing information on an “unusual mortality event” in Alaska when an unknown disease struck pinnipeds in 2011-2012. Serving on the communication team, ICC Alaska answered questions and used its networks to disseminate updates (based upon the findings of a scientific investigative team) as they became available.

Furthermore, the ICC Executive Council passed a resolution calling on federal and state governments for disaster relief funds when the village residents of Savoonga and Gambell on St. Lawrence Island declared a walrus harvest disaster for spring 2013. The 2010 Nuuk

Declaration instructed ICC to “support Inuit hunters in their struggle to adapt to the new Arctic”, and this stance urged government officials to respond to crises facing Inuit communities that “rely on traditional food resources, like the walrus, not only for nutritional needs but for cultural and spiritual reasons as well.”

EU Seal Import Ban

The European Union (EU) seal import ban imposed on Inuit and others during the last four years has caused tremendous harm and suffering. ICC vocally objected to the ban both before it went into effect and has maintained strong opposition ever since. ICC representatives made many trips to speak with EU officials and took every opportunity, when participating in international events where EU officials were in attendance, to speak with them and argue for an Inuit exception to the rule. When these efforts did not succeed to change the legislation, ICC gave support to the lawsuit against the ban.

ICC, through its Greenland office, joined various other organizations, individual Inuit and non-Inuit plaintiffs to legally challenge the European Parliament, Council, and Commission against its regulation of September 2009 that bans seal product imports and the placing of seal products onto the EU internal market. Our legal efforts began early in 2010 and continued throughout the past four years. Unfortunately, our two separate legal challenges both failed.



While these legal actions were ongoing, ICC continued to speak out against the EU seal import ban. ICC worked together with other Inuit groups, including the Kalaallit Nunaanni Aalisartut Piniartullu Kattuffiat (KNAPK, the Association of Fishermen and Hunters in Greenland) and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) which engaged their members and supporters in demonstrations against the EU seal ban and in support of sealing as a vital part of Inuit life. KNAPK got international attention in 2012 for its picket line in front of a department store in Copenhagen that decided to stop selling seal products. After an American celebrity spoke against sealing, an Inuk filmmaker and activist from Iqaluit launched a successful social media campaign in which hundreds of Inuit and others who support sealing took pictures of themselves (“sealfies”) with seals or seal products and posted them online.

The Governments of Greenland, Norway and Canada also opposed the EU seal ban, thus presenting opportunities to partner with them. ICC Greenland met with the Greenland Government and the Canadian Government to discuss the sealing issue. The Governments of Norway and Canada determined that they would challenge the EU action at the World Trade Organization (WTO), and ICC is extremely disappointed that the WTO ruled in favor of the EU.

Polar Bears

Despite a proposal by the United States of America that the polar bear should be promoted to the highest CITES list of endangered species, which would ban all trade in polar bears and any polar bear products, the 16th Conference of the Parties of CITES held in Thailand in March 2013 decided to maintain the current Appendix II listing. Polar bear experts estimated that it was difficult to prove that the polar bear was currently threatened by extinction, which is the meaning of Appendix I, and also pointed out that the threats to the polar bear come primarily from climate change and not from a limited and well-managed hunt. A CITES committee also rejected an EU proposal to keep the polar bear on Appendix II but to establish additional conditions on international trade. This is encouraging news and awakens hope that ICC's argument that the Inuit use of polar bears does not undermine the health of the species, made at the Polar Bear Range States meeting in Iqaluit in 2011 and elsewhere, is finally being heard.

ICC also advanced Inuit positions on sustainable use to potential funders interested in working in the Arctic with polar bears and other species.

Fish



Photo credit: Inuvialuit
Communications Society

In many Inuit communities we rely heavily on fish for food and sustenance. This may increase as climate change causes some species to migrate northward. There are also serious threats to fisheries in some areas, and ICC has taken action to support Inuit where this is the case.

ICC Alaska supported the efforts of the Association of Village Council Presidents in the Alaskan Yupik region on the Bering Sea salmon by-catch issue by writing letters and articles, engaging in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and participating in the association's State of the Salmon workshop. The ICC Alaska office also participated in meetings with government officials on fisheries in USA-controlled waters of the Arctic Ocean. ICC expressed support for a moratorium on commercial fishing in the area until more information is gathered to inform management, meaningful engagement of indigenous communities, and the need to integrate traditional knowledge in research in the area.

ICC also attended a meeting of the five states bordering the Arctic Ocean on fisheries in February 2014. Since this was not an Arctic Council meeting where ICC is automatically welcomed at the table, ICC Alaska, Greenland and Canada requested and attended as part of their respective country delegations. The meeting, held in Nuuk, discussed the international waters of the High Arctic. ICC supported a moratorium on any kind of commercial fishing in the High Arctic pending further scientific assessments and creation of a fisheries management regime.

Marine Mammals

In 2013 the Government of Greenland decided to unilaterally determine its whaling quotas when a motion at the International Whaling Commission (IWC) did not secure the 75 percent agreement needed to establish quotas for Greenland after the existing quotas expired. The IWC generally bans whaling except for Greenland, Alaska, Chukotka and St. Vincent and the Grenadines because these four areas rely so heavily on whaling for their food supply and for their cultures. ICC Greenland sent a letter of support backing the Greenland Government's decision on the grounds that it was a responsible way of dealing with the issue and necessary for sustainable whaling in the absence of IWC quotas.

ICC also shares the Government of Greenland's concern that individual IWC members from the EU have begun to direct whaling policy on behalf of the whole EU. ICC also finds it unacceptable that animal welfare organizations are increasingly using the IWC as a means to distribute and disseminate false information, with most IWC member states taking these extreme attitudes and agendas as valid facts.

ICC has two seats in the IWC as an observer, which can be used by ICC members on a flexible basis. It has been general practice that ICC, during its participation in state delegations, "lends" its two observer seats, for example, to the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission or KNAPK.



Photo credit: Chris Danner

In October 2013, ICC Greenland co-sponsored a two-day workshop in Nuuk on Pikialarsorsuaq, the North Water polynya. Pikialarsorsuaq is the largest polynya in the world and one of the most biologically productive ocean areas north of the Arctic Circle. Many of the marine mammals that are hunted by communities in northern Nunavut and Avanersuaq overwinter in these waters, which also are critical habitat for huge populations of sea birds. The workshop brought together more than twenty representatives of the Inuit communities in Canada and Greenland who depend on the polynya, all of whom agreed strongly that they need to find effective joint strategies for safeguarding and monitoring the health of this region so that future generations of Inuit can continue to rely upon it. ICC Greenland has committed to lead the continued work of this matter.

Birds

ICC staff has attended an Alaska Arctic Migratory Bird Co-management Council meeting as part of the Alaska Native caucus, which works diligently within this council to gain an equal voice in management decisions, secure indigenous hunting rights, and protection of migratory species. For example, there are concerns surrounding Emperor geese after a population crash in 1984, leaving the population at half of what management plans estimate it needs to be. As a result, Inuit in Alaska are restricted from harvesting this species, even though sport hunting for these geese continues.

In addition to regulatory issues, Alaska Inuit are concerned with the drastic decline or disappearance of some bird species over the last few decades. The ICC Alaska food security project has generated many conversations about migratory birds, pollutants, competition for habitat and use, and overall concern for bird species health. For example, the Eskimo curlew and the Whimbrel curlew were once abundant in the Northwest Arctic. Today they are scarce. Inuit also express particular concern about the decline in the number of species migrating through Diomedes Island. The people of Diomedes rely heavily on these species for food and these animals play a crucial role in biophysical energy transfer. Accordingly, ICC Alaska has pushed for improved information sharing about contaminants and other hazards to bird health. We have also advocated strongly for better inclusion of Inuit in research, conservation measures, and management decisions related to all bird species in Inuit Nunaat.



Photo credit: Duane Smith

ICC has taken an active interest in the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna's Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI). The first workshop, held in Montreal in February 2014, set three priority areas: habitat loss and degradation, unsustainable harvest, and by-catch. One of the group's actions is to undertake additional research on breeding grounds to determine if there is a conservation issue, with Alaska as the proposed area for research on large shore bird species. ICC has held meetings with the chair of this initiative to promote Inuit participation, and ICC Alaska encourages the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (which represents the US on CAFF) to engage the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council in this project.

Food Security

The security of food and the habitat that produces the food is vitally important to Inuit. As such, ICC has placed a high priority on this topic over the past four years. Many Inuit have told ICC they are concerned about how to provide enough food for their families with all of the changes taking place in our Arctic environment. We are working diligently to understand what is driving this new found food insecurity in order to explain it to governments and advocate on behalf of Inuit. Clearly, food security cannot be measured in the same way for Inuit as it is for families outside the Arctic. This reality reflects our indigenous hunting-based way of life and our unique Arctic environment.

ICC Alaska is conducting a large pilot study on "Inuit Food Security: Building a Framework on Assessing Food Security from an Inuit Perspective" to determine what food security and food insecurity mean for Inuit and to discern the key drivers. ICC Alaska researchers visited sixteen Inuit villages in Alaska and conducted several regional workshops.

ICC Alaska's preliminary findings indicate that food security is synonymous with environmental health, where the term 'environment' includes the Inuit as part of the ecosystem. Inuit observe that an environment is considered healthy when all the parts fit together. One elder explained that the Arctic environment is like a puzzle, with all pieces

having a necessary place in the entire puzzle. These pieces include indigenous languages, retention of traditional knowledge, and animal health. Although the study is still underway, it already shows that an accumulation of stressors are causing food insecurity for Inuit in Alaska, and that enhanced understanding and sound decision-making need to be based on both traditional knowledge and science. Research must also be rooted in both.

ICC undertook several other initiatives and projects related to food security from 2010-2014:

- We submitted a circumpolar paper on *Food Security in the Arctic* to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food during his Mission to Canada in May 2012. Inuit from Canada met with the UN Special Rapporteur during this visit and submitted a national Inuit position on Inuit and the Right to Food.
- We attended the half-day session on Food Security at UNPFII in May 2012 and presented an intervention on food security issues from the Arctic Caucus with input from all regions.
- We held a Roundtable on Food Security in Washington, DC to initiate discussion on agency coordination in order to collectively improve federal regulations relating to management of food resources in Alaska. ICC Alaska developed a paper on “Declining Food Security for Inuit” that it distributed at this roundtable meeting.
- We promoted food security as an issue to be addressed through the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples’ report on the situation of indigenous peoples in the US, and ICC was pleased that the report recognized food security as a priority for Alaska Natives.
- We developed a paper on “Food Security Across the Arctic” to use as an advocacy piece.
- ICC Canada prepared an Arctic case study on food security at the Conference on Hunger Nutrition and Climate Justice held in Dublin, Ireland in April 2013, which was subsequently published in the conference proceedings.
- We spoke on behalf of Inuit about food security and climate change at United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – GRID Arendal “Many Strong Voices” meetings. ICC is a Board Member of the Many Strong Voices initiative.
- We contributed Inuit information to the Arctic Council’s Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG) Food and Water Security Report, and continued discussions on phase II of this work.
- ICC contributed information to the Council of Canadian Academies’ *Aboriginal Food Security in Northern Canada* assessment.



Photo credit: Duane Smith

8. Health and Well-Being

Our health and well-being allows us to thrive as a people. This section outlines several initiatives and related work that contribute to our healthy culture.

Health Initiatives

We are very active on many health-related matters, particularly through the Canada office, which has secured funding from the Government of Canada to work on Inuit health at the circumpolar level.

Delegates at the last General Assembly in Nuuk mandated ICC to implement the 2010-2014 Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy by promoting strategic initiatives throughout the Inuit world that focus on the well-being of Inuit families. In order to fulfill this mandate, we formed an ICC Health Steering Committee with membership from all ICC countries to help guide our work. This includes documenting different health experiences to help with our advocacy work. ICC Canada has worked closely with the health committee in completing several ICC health reports, with additional funding provided by Health Canada Northern Region and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), covering such topics as circumpolar Inuit health systems, food security, mental health and wellness, perspectives on risk communication, and a report on Circumpolar Inuit Best Health Practices focused on food security, chronic disease, services delivery and mental health and wellness. Recommendations from the best practices report included the need to share this information more broadly, and in a more accessible format. This resulted in a new AANDC-funded initiative to map mental health and wellness initiatives in Inuit Nunaat on the online *Atlas of Community-Based Monitoring in a Changing Arctic*. ICC Canada also presented on the Best Health Practices Report and its mental wellness mapping initiative at the Arctic Frontiers conference held in Norway in January 2014.

In the past four years, ICC's Canada office also participated in health-related meetings in Canada and shared knowledge and reports from circumpolar Inuit. For example, we advanced circumpolar Inuit health issues through its membership on the Canadian National Inuit Committee on Health (NICOH) and its related sub-committees, and as a board member of the Nasivvik Centre for Inuit Health and Changing Environments. ICC Canada also shared information on food security initiatives from the Arctic Council and ICC Alaska at the National Inuit Food Security Working Group (NIFSWG) meeting in Ottawa in July 2013.

The Nuuk Declaration instructed ICC to increase our knowledge of Inuit health and well-being issues and to promote these issues through relevant international bodies. ICC worked diligently on this matter over the past four years. At the Arctic Council, we have participated actively in the SDWG's Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG) since 2008, including in a leadership role as Co-Chair for 2013-2015. In addition, ICC Canada made a presentation on the ICC Alaska food security project and Circumpolar Inuit Health Systems at the International Congress on Circumpolar Health in August 2012. The

proceedings of this congress included a piece on Circumpolar Inuit Health Systems, which was published in the *International Journal of Circumpolar Health*. Furthermore, ICC contributed information and comments to the health chapters of the *Arctic Human Development Report II* and to the Arctic Social Indicators (ASI) project through the SDWG. At the UNPFII session in May 2013, we also participated in preparing and submitting an Arctic Caucus statement on health.

ICC Canada undertook significant negotiations pursuant to the Arctic Council Mental Health and Wellness project on the “evidence-base for promoting mental wellness and resilience to address suicide in circumpolar communities”. As co-lead and a member on the International Steering Committee, we are well placed to ensure the success of this important initiative during the Canadian Chairmanship. ICC is also co-lead of the Arctic Council’s Review of Cancer among Circumpolar Indigenous Peoples (CircCAN) with Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark, which will review and analyze data from Inuit regions of Alaska, Canada, Greenland between 2004-2008.¹ Preliminary results will be available in fall 2014, with final results released before the end of Canada’s Chairmanship in 2015.

Inuit health and wellness continues to be a major priority. The Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee will meet prior to the General Assembly and will report on the outcomes of the health strategy, determine next steps to address remaining health challenges, and frame the next phase of its strategy.

Contaminants

Contaminants continue to pose a serious risk to Inuit health, particularly through our food. Accordingly, we have been working diligently on these issues which intersect with our focus on food security (documented above).

Mercury remains a contaminant of particular concern to Inuit. This is why ICC participated in all five sessions of the UNEP’s Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) held from 2010-2013, with ICC Canada participating since 2010 and ICC Greenland since 2011. The negotiating committee was established to prepare a legally-binding global instrument on mercury. Inuit are exposed to mercury through certain traditional foods, with potentially serious health effects. Because mercury undergoes long-range transport and is deposited in the Arctic from sources far away, ICC particularly emphasized the importance of atmospheric mercury emissions during the negotiations which produced a new convention called the “Minamata Convention on Mercury”, named after a city in Japan that suffered serious health impacts because of mercury pollution. The new convention, adopted and opened for signature in October 2013 and expected to enter into force in two to three years, should reduce mercury levels around the world, although it will likely take decades before we observe actual reductions in mercury levels in the environment.



Photo credit: Inuvialuit Communications Society

¹ CircCAN is an update to a study completed in 2008 covering 1989-2003 data.

ICC Canada is working with two Canadian universities to conduct a study on the movement of mercury in the Arctic regions of Canada. This project aims to contribute to the knowledge about mercury levels in the Arctic, its pathways, and its sources, and how this contaminant impacts Inuit. We presented Inuit concerns at the 10th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant, and contributed significantly to the mercury assessment undertaken by the AMAP Working Group, co-authoring two chapters of the *AMAP Assessment 2011: Mercury in the Arctic* report.

In 2012, ICC Canada led the development of two reports on risk communication: one on international experiences, and one on circumpolar Inuit perspectives on risk communication. For the latter, all of our offices solicited input from Inuit. ICC Canada and ICC Alaska had teleconferences, meetings and email exchanges with Inuit in Alaska, Canada and Chukotka. ICC Greenland and KNAPK created and distributed a questionnaire to gauge the public's knowledge and perception of pollutants in the traditional Inuit diet. The resulting report provided input for the AMAP expert Human Health Assessment Group (HHAG), which had launched a project to investigate how the risks of contaminants in traditional foods are communicated to the people of the Arctic. This work has been the foundation for a chapter, led by ICC Canada, on risk communication for the upcoming AMAP human health assessment report, to be completed in 2015.

In addition to mercury, other contaminants undergo long-range transport, bio-accumulate in the Arctic ecosystem, and become highly concentrated, potentially impacting Inuit health and well-being in some communities. These contaminants (called “persistent organic pollutants” or POPs) are regulated in the Stockholm Convention on POPs. ICC was instrumental in the negotiations of the Stockholm Convention, which entered into force in 2004. We continue to work hard to understand the risks posed by these contaminants and pushed for restrictions on their use. For instance, our Canada office monitors the scientific literature on contaminants and works with scientists and partner organizations to feed into the Stockholm Convention process. In particular, we are active in the POP Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention which is responsible for reviewing new POP candidates and recommending inclusion of chemicals into the Convention’s annexes. ICC Canada is becoming known for its expertise on Arctic contaminants, with two of its reports on the subject published in scientific journals.

9. Climate Change

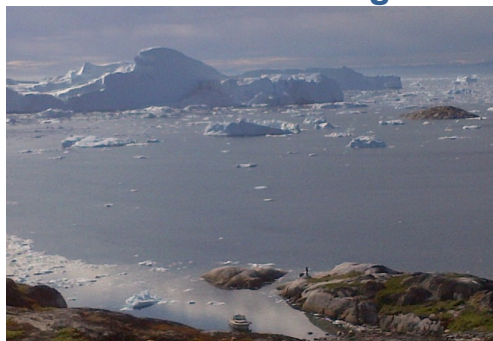


Photo credit: Duane Smith

In March 2014 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability released its assessment, which reiterated that cumulative evidence demonstrated that decisions need to be made immediately to mitigate and alleviate the negative effects on Inuit. Seven years ago, Inuit read in the first series of IPCC reports that climate change is affecting the Arctic more profoundly and quickly than any other part

of the globe. Since that time, the global effects of climate change – droughts, floods, heat waves, the Arctic vortex, and extreme weather events – have become strikingly obvious. For Inuit today, climate change is an obvious fact. The challenge remains in managing risks and adapting to new conditions as the effects of climate change become more pervasive.

Developments over the last four years have reaffirmed that Inuit can no longer wait for mitigation: we need to act now. Since 2011, ICC has continued to work on climate change as a cross-cutting issue that is naturally linked to and integrated into our work on food security, hunting and fishing, health, contaminants, non-renewable resource development, shipping, and sovereignty. Regardless of how we categorize the work, we continue to participate in many events, initiatives and working groups concerning climate change in the Arctic. The main points that ICC has been pushing for in the past four years are:

- Developing adaptation strategies to help Inuit survive climate change and getting these strategies out to the community level;
- Including Inuit traditional knowledge in discussions about climate change;
- Urging governments and international bodies to provide financial assistance for Inuit communities that need to adapt their infrastructure to the changing conditions; and
- Pushing for continued global efforts to combat climate change.



Photo credit: Duane Smith

The annual Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the primary global forum for negotiation specific to climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. In the past four years, we have closely monitored the UNFCCC negotiations and sent a small delegation to the COP meetings. ICC has also issued statements such as the Circumpolar Inuit Call to Global Leaders to Act Now on Climate Change, which are delivered by the ICC delegation and supported by media releases.

The Arctic Council's major initiative "Adaptation Actions in a Changing Arctic (AACA)" does not focus only on climate change, but it is another forum where ICC brought Inuit concerns to the table. Another major climate change-related project of the Arctic Council, coordinated by the AMAP working group, was the Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic (SWIPA) assessment. ICC contributed to this important study, completed in 2011, by emphasizing the human dimension of climate change and reminding the researchers that the dramatic environmental changes in the Arctic also have a devastating effect on the people who live here. The AMAP working group also published an important report in 2013 on Arctic Ocean acidification, which affects the fish and crustaceans that make up a

large portion of the food in many Inuit communities, as well as bowhead and other whales up the food chain which Inuit rely upon for sustenance.

ICC Alaska serves on the US Interagency Arctic Research Plan Committee (IARPC), with objectives that include: conducting socio-economic research to understand ecosystem services as increased warming changes the Arctic; assessing the strengths and vulnerabilities of Arctic communities facing the impacts of climate change; and assisting in the development of adaptation strategies and tools to maximize sustainability, well-being, and cultural and linguistic heritage.

10. Traditional Knowledge and Research

In the past four years, we have actively promoted the inclusion of Inuit traditional knowledge with science at every opportunity. One way we do this is by serving as a conduit for bringing Inuit knowledge to the international stage, facilitating the participation of Inuit experts in international events and helping to design and conduct studies that rely on the knowledgeable observations that Inuit make while pursuing subsistence activities.



Photo credit: Hans Blohm

Taking direction from the delegates at the last General Assembly in Nuuk, we took special initiative to improve the use and integration of traditional knowledge at the Arctic Council. Due to the unique nature of the council, where ICC and other indigenous peoples' organizations have permanent participant status and where many Arctic-specific studies and assessments are undertaken, it is vital that traditional knowledge be given the proper respect and importance in all council activities.

Our initiative began in force with a letter to the Arctic Council SAO Chair from Sweden in February 2012. Our letter put forward four clear principles that constitute ICC's fundamental position on how traditional knowledge should be incorporated into the Arctic Council research and publications:

- Capturing and including traditional knowledge and information into all Arctic Council initiatives should be a central goal of the SAOs and all working groups;
- Budgeting for and funding the incorporation of traditional knowledge and information should be a prerequisite for any proposed initiative inside the Arctic Council;
- The inclusion of western science and traditional knowledge information are equally important; and
- Arctic Council products should only be considered complete when traditional knowledge has been properly and centrally incorporated, and only then should it be presented to Ministers.

The letter was received well in principle, but we had to follow up persistently and propose ideas for its implementation. First, we produced a white paper on traditional knowledge for use and application by the Arctic Council. We also promoted the inclusion of traditional knowledge in the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) IIC deliberations. When the Arctic Council Chairmanship moved from Sweden to Canada, ICC again took up the issue, asking the new Chair to make the incorporation of traditional knowledge a priority. This led to a SDWG workshop on traditional knowledge, held in Reykjavik in February 2014. ICC sent three representatives to the workshop, which developed some preliminary principles and indicated that the Arctic Council is willing to work toward better inclusion of traditional knowledge. In the end, we felt that this workshop and its outcomes did not go far enough and further communicated with the SDWG Chair on the matter to keep the issue moving forward. Additional meetings are being planned by SDWG to complete this work. Concurrently, we continue to promote the incorporation of traditional knowledge into research and publications for consideration of the Task Force on Scientific Cooperation in the Arctic.

Even though there is still more work to be done before the Arctic Council's practices regarding traditional knowledge measure up to the principles expressed in our 2012 letter, we acknowledge that significant progress was made in the past four years and that discussions are heading in a good direction. Awareness of the importance of traditional knowledge is growing amongst the Arctic Council member states and many researchers in the six working groups, which reflects the hard work and persistence of ICC.

The Canada office represents us in the Arctic Council's Sustaining Arctic Observation Networks (SAON) initiative. The SAON process was initiated in 2007 to support and strengthen the development of multinational engagement for sustained and coordinated pan-Arctic observing and data sharing systems that serve societal needs, particularly related to environmental, social, economic and cultural issues. Developed by a steering group over several years, SAON was formally established at its first board meeting in 2012. ICC Canada is a member of the SAON Board and the Executive Committee, and leads a SAON "task" on community-based monitoring (CBM) together with its partners such as the Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic (ELOKA), ITK's Inuit Knowledge Centre, and Brown University. This work has involved the development of an ICC concept paper for a CBM Strategy and a broader CBM Research Principle Guidelines document. ICC Canada also organized a CBM workshop in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut in 2013 and continues to work within the Canadian National Contaminants Project and with Inuit in all the regions to enhance community-based monitoring. ICC work has also contributed to an online atlas on CBM in the circumpolar Arctic (www.arcticcbm.org) was developed and first launched in August 2013. This internet-based tool provides a visual representation of locations where CBM and



traditional knowledge projects are being conducted, and it continues to be populated and improved.

Over the past four years, on behalf of the Arctic Council's Indigenous Peoples Secretariat, ICC Greenland represented the Permanent Participants in the Executive Committee for the International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III) through the auspices of International Arctic Science Committee. The main conference is to take place in Japan in April 2015. ICARP deals with the Arctic research planning issues on the ten years basis.

The Arctic Council's *Adaptation Actions in a Changing Arctic* (AACA) project is a major, cross-cutting initiative that studies the many profound effects and impacts on the physical, chemical and biological conditions of the Arctic. It recognizes other drivers of Arctic change, such as global resource demand, tourism, global transport, fisheries, and economic development, which are often interrelated and interlinked. Science and research are important components of AACA. ICC served on the AACA board and contributed to all its work in 2010-2014.

Additional ICC activities related to traditional knowledge and research include:

- Maintaining through the Canada office a significant role in the ArcticNet Center of Excellence Program of Research as a Board Member and as a Research Manager.
- Traditional Knowledge lead in the IPY Circumpolar Flaw Lead Study, completed in during the last ICC 4-year term, and contributor to the Traditional Knowledge chapter in the book *Two Ways of Knowing* featuring the personal experiences of Northerners, scientists, youth, educators, politicians, and media during the project, and their perspectives on climate change.
- Engaging in the CAFF Community-Based Monitoring Program and expert groups (sea ice, marine, freshwater, terrestrial).
- Preparing a Traditional Knowledge scoping paper for the World Wildlife Fund Last Ice Area project.
- Developing a paper on "Declining Food Security for Inuit" that was distributed at a Roundtable on Food Security held by ICC in Washington;
- Co-sponsoring a two-day workshop in Nuuk on the North Water polynya in October 2013, which brought together more than twenty representatives of the Inuit communities in Canada and Greenland;
- Presenting on research practices, effective ways of engaging communities and the use of traditional knowledge at a workshop on improving local participation in research held in Kotzebue; and
- ICC Greenland is working with Dartmouth College to establish a cooperative agreement on an Integrated Graduate Education Research Training (IGERT) project with Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland), which would foster student exchange between the two universities.

ICC was a member of the International Steering Committee for the International Polar Year (IPY) Conference held in Montreal in 2012. In this capacity, ICC developed the Indigenous Knowledge Exchange Program and highlighted traditional knowledge issues throughout the conference.

ICC's Canada office served on the board of the Inuit Qaujisarvingat - Inuit Knowledge Centre, housed in Ottawa by Canadian Inuit, which envisions a world in which Inuit and Inuit knowledge advance sustainable Arctic science and policy. ICC Canada has highlighted the work of the Inuit Knowledge Centre in many international speeches and presentations

We are pleased to have seen progress on the status of traditional knowledge since the Nuuk Declaration in 2010, particularly at the Arctic Council. As is described earlier, ICC wrote a letter to the Chair of the Arctic Council in 2012 reminding the Arctic Council that we expect scientists who study the Arctic to respect Inuit expertise and to include Inuit knowledge in their projects from start to finish. While our position has not yet been adopted, the Arctic Council did agree that our traditional knowledge should be included together with Western scientific knowledge in council projects and in its working groups, and it worked more diligently to bring Inuit and other Arctic indigenous peoples into its research teams.

Part of building respect for Inuit knowledge is promoting the protection of Inuit intellectual property and cultural heritage. In our discussions with the Arctic Council about traditional knowledge, we emphasized the importance of protecting Inuit intellectual property and cultural heritage. We also monitor the activities of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Working together with the Saami Council and representing the Arctic Caucus (as WIPO is a UN agency), ICC follows WIPO proceedings so that it can speak on behalf of Inuit when issues of concern or opportunity are brought to the table.

Through participation in the International Negotiating Committee, ICC has worked since 1996 toward negotiation of the *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS)* to the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*. We are pleased with the result of these difficult, eight-year efforts and negotiations. The Nagoya Protocol covers traditional knowledge (TK) associated with genetic resources that are covered by the CBD, as well as benefits arising from its use. This is vitally important to protect Inuit traditional knowledge, ensuring that outsiders cannot take Inuit knowledge and intellectual property and benefit from it financially without fair and equitable benefit sharing with Inuit. The Protocol recognizes the rights of communities where genetic resources are found on their land, ensures that traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is accessed with the prior and informed consent (or approval and involvement) of indigenous and local communities, and stipulates that mutually agreeable terms have been established.



Photo credit: Inuvialuit Communications Society

We follow closely the developments and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity given its broad goals: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. These goals are vital for the protection of the Arctic environment and the Inuit way of life. Accordingly, ICC participated in the CBD Conferences of the Parties in 2010 and 2012, along with preparatory meetings in 2011. In addition, we participate in the working group meetings regarding CBD Article 8(j) (about the role of traditional knowledge in conserving and promoting biological diversity).

11. Arctic Shipping

As the AACA attests, Arctic change is unquestionably upon us. One of the key elements of this change is increased shipping in and through Inuit Nunaat. ICC is very concerned about the impacts that increased shipping have on Inuit, and we undertook important work to address it in 2010-14.

Awareness of past events, such as the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill disaster along the Alaskan coast, make Inuit especially vigilant about how shipping should be conducted in their homeland. Today's changing Arctic seascape brings new challenges in each of the countries in which Inuit live. Consequently, each ICC office has been active on this issue. For example, ICC Alaska participated in an Alaskan-specific meeting of Inuit marine mammal organizations, other Inuit organizations, and various NGOs to discuss shipping concerns. ICC Alaska also actively promoted Inuit interests related to shipping in communications with the State of Alaska, the US government (primarily through the US Coast Guard), and Alaska's congressional delegation.



Photo credit: Hans Blohm

Following the 2009 Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA), ICC worked on implementing and addressing some of the AMSA recommendations, which included development of a project at the Arctic Council called *A Circumpolar-wide Inuit Response to the AMSA*. In early 2012, the USA, Canada, and Denmark endorsed the project under the auspices of the SDWG. ICC, through its Canada office, started planning immediately thereafter.

Our first major initiative pursuant to this project was to convene an Arctic Shipping workshop to discuss an Inuit response to this issue and share experiences of changing sea ice. The workshop, held in Ottawa in March 2013, brought together 45 delegates, presenters, observers and facilitators to discuss pressing Arctic shipping issues and to provide a forum for Inuit to begin to formulate their collective response to Arctic shipping and Arctic change more generally. The three main objectives of the workshop were:

- *Understanding AMSA* – To assist Inuit from Greenland, Canada, Alaska and Russia to explore, discuss and understand the AMSA findings and their relevance to Inuit.

- *Responding to AMSA* – To seek guidance from Inuit on how ICC might best respond to the AMSA recommendations and to consider what products Inuit wish to develop as an outcome of the workshop.
- *Documenting Sea Ice Use by Inuit* – To provide a forum for Inuit to determine how best to collect data on coastal zone and sea ice use by Inuit in a way that promotes the rights and interests of all Inuit.

Building on the knowledge gained through the workshop presentations and discussions, ICC proceeded with a second major initiative: to document Inuit use of sea ice on a circumpolar scale. This study, called *The Sea Ice Never Stops: Circumpolar Inuit Reflections on Sea Ice Use and Shipping in Inuit Nunaat*, built upon a previous study done in 2008, called *The Sea Ice is Our Highway: An Inuit Perspective on Transportation in the Arctic*, which was incorporated into the AMSA report. Because the interviews conducted in 2008 were all done in Canada owing to time and resource constraints, the *Sea Ice Never Stops* study emphasized speaking with Inuit in Greenland, Alaska and Chukotka through the joint efforts of all four of our offices.



Photo credit: Hans Blohm

After reviewing numerous recent studies and reports by Inuit organizations and others, ICC interviewed Inuit experts in Alaska, in Greenland, and in Chukotka in March 2013 about their use of the sea ice, the changes they have observed, and the expected impacts of increased shipping in Inuit Nunaat. Adding the observations and knowledge of these Inuit experts to what Inuit experts in Canada had shared earlier, *The Sea Ice Never Stops* report reached five key findings:

- We have a well-established maritime culture.
- We are adaptable and strong.
- We continue to rely heavily on our traditional foods for our sustenance and culture.
- Predictions of increased shipping in the Arctic cause Inuit concern.
- Inuit Insist upon Sustainable Use.

We will share the findings of this important circumpolar report at the Arctic Council at the SDWG and as a response to AMSA II and its follow-up workshops and reports. We will also use the findings of *The Sea Ice Never Stops* to inform our interventions at meetings on oil spill preparedness and response, just as we did over the past four years.

12. Education

In the past four years, we have contemplated ways to facilitate the exchange of ideas between Inuit educators across the circumpolar Arctic to develop and improve upon culturally-appropriate curriculum and achieve better educational outcomes for Inuit

children and youth. This effort requires good communication and partnership with national and local Inuit organizations directly responsible for education. Within its mandate, ICC focuses on fostering exchange between Inuit on the circumpolar level.



Photo credit: Inuvialuit Communications Society

The ICC Alaska office has started to develop an Alaskan Inuit Education Improvement Strategy. After the ICC 2010 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, 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. ICC Alaska held an education workshop in April 2014 where Inuit education experts developed a set of recommendations that will serve as the backbone to the strategy. The strategy is expected to be completed in late summer 2014. In support of the Nuuk declaration mandate relating to education, ICC Alaska continues to meet with Ilisagvik College to discuss potential partnership opportunities to support youth empowerment and engagement in Inuit affairs. This included writing a letter of support for the Ilisagvik College's proposal for a new program with a circumpolar exchange component. ICC's Alaska office also attended the Circumpolar Education Conference in Iqaluit in 2012.

ICC's Canada office participated in the Education Committee of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), Canada's national Inuit association, on the implementation of its *National Strategy on Inuit Education*. ICC Canada also hosts an ongoing dialogue with students from the University of Washington.

13. Languages

ICC, facilitated by its Canada office and in close cooperation with the other ICC offices and the Saami Council, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), and the other Arctic Council permanent participant organizations, is providing leadership for the multi-year "Assessing, Monitoring, and Promoting the Vitality of Arctic Indigenous Languages" project. This indigenous-led project is being implemented through the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) and is part of efforts to implement the recommendations of the 2008 Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium held in Norway (which was also led by ICC). The Steering Committee, chaired by the ICC Greenland president, is made up of one member from each of the six Permanent Participant organizations and serves as an advisory body to the project manager (the ICC Canada President). ICC Canada has hired an academic expert who specializes in Arctic indigenous languages to assist as a project coordinator.

This project has three main goals: to assess, monitor and promote the vitality of Arctic indigenous languages. Focusing on the first of these goals, ICC Canada hosted a three-day workshop in June 2012 to lay the academic foundation for a collaborative, circumpolar assessment. Leading contributors to Arctic language vitality, including

representatives of Arctic states, indigenous peoples' organizations, academic researchers, language policy-makers, programmers and activists, came together to lay the groundwork for effective circumpolar cooperation on indigenous languages. They discussed the relevance and applicability of existing theories of language shift, leading to the formation of sub-committees to



Language workshop, Ottawa, 2012

develop new methodologies and assessment tools suited to Arctic indigenous languages. Since the workshop, the project coordinator and steering committee chair have actively promoted the project at language symposia, including the Tromsø International Conference on Language Diversity in November 2013 and the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS) VIII in May 2014. Planning is underway for another symposium to be held in Iqaluit, Nunavut, in February 2015.

In order to publicize the project and promote engagement with Arctic indigenous youth, ICC developed a project-specific website and social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. The arcticlanguages.com website describes the project and its goals, and includes a large collection of electronic language learning tools for nearly all of the indigenous languages of the Arctic, along with an events calendar for Arctic languages-related workshops and conferences. The website also features a repository of academic articles related to Arctic indigenous languages for use by project collaborators. The social media accounts have been active since early 2014, sharing news and updates about local and regional efforts to promote and revitalize Arctic indigenous languages, highlighting encouraging success stories, and linking to music and documentaries that showcase indigenous languages of the Arctic.

Momentum continues to build for this project, which is amongst the most robust Arctic Council projects that ICC has tackled – and is certainly the largest that we have ever led at the Council. Everyone involved recognizes the enormity of the task of assessing accurately each of the more than fifty Arctic indigenous languages and then designing policies to protect and revitalize them. This task will require ongoing circumpolar cooperation over several years and considerable funding. With other Arctic Council permanent participants, we are actively searching for additional funding to support future work on the project.

In the meantime, other initiatives related to Arctic indigenous languages are underway. Recognizing the importance of language policy, ICC Greenland has urged the Government of Greenland to develop a language policy, backed by appropriate support and expertise. ICC Alaska is delighted to report that the State of Alaska recently recognized all twenty indigenous languages in Alaska as official languages of the state.

Remembering the painful history in which indigenous languages were at best ignored and at worst actively undermined, this is an important symbolic victory. ICC Alaska has met with the State of Alaska Native Language Preservation Advisory Council to promote collaboration between their efforts at the state level and ICC's efforts at the international level.

14. Communications and Media

The Nuuk Declaration mandates ICC to work with Inuit media companies to develop pan-Arctic and Inuit communications initiatives. Through the Greenland office, we are



Photo credit: Inuvialuit Communications Society

working with Greenland's national broadcasting company Kalaallit Nunaata Radioa (KNR) and other journalists on possible pan-Arctic broadcasting. ICC Alaska also proposed to KNBA (owned by the Koahnic Broadcast Corporation) the establishment of a pan-Arctic radio program. ICC Canada met with several media outlets in the context of the Arctic Indigenous Languages Vitality Initiative, to explore the potential for documentary films about Inuit language use.

We strive to continuously communicate our work and the results of our activities to Inuit. ICC as a whole and our individual offices do this through various means. Each office has a website, puts out annual reports and newsletters, and mandates its Chairs and Board Members to interact personally with Inuit in their communities and to promote ICC activities and projects in speeches and media interviews. In the past four years, social media communication has become increasingly important, and the offices in Alaska, Greenland and Canada all use Facebook pages to communicate with Inuit, with ICC Alaska and Canada also utilizing Twitter to reach wide audiences.

15. Chukotka

The struggle to integrate the Inuit of Chukotka more fully into ICC projects and activities continues. We think back to the days when Inuit could walk across the ice between what is now Alaska and Russia, and chafe at the separation caused by strictly-enforced national boundaries that cut through Inuit Nunaat. The situation for NGOs in Russia is particularly precarious because of restrictive changes in Russian law regarding NGOs.

In order to support the Inuit of Chukotka and promote unity amongst all Inuit, ICC hosted a workshop in Ottawa in 2011 to assess the difficulties with which Inuit in Chukotka contend and to discuss practical projects that will bring them lasting benefit. We have developed and submitted proposals to the Canadian government, the EU, and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support them.

ICC Canada has secured funding for ICC Chukotka to participate in a language and culture project. In 2012, ICC amended and strengthened a 2002 memorandum of cooperation with both the Governor of Chukotka and the Association of Indigenous

Minorities of Chukotka. The memorandum addresses the conditions of indigenous peoples, including culture and capacity-building. ICC Canada, which has a long-standing relationship with the Yupik of Chukotka as well as the Governor's office, acquired seed money to strengthen ties between Canadian Inuit and Inuit in Chukotka by supporting the promotion of the culture and language of the region. Accordingly, ICC conducted interviews with "Keepers of Traditions in Chukotka" to showcase Russian Inuit accomplishments in language promotion, further the Arctic Council languages project, and document the work of Yupik individuals in Chukotka who are active in keeping indigenous traditions alive and integrating them into the framework of modern, healthy communities they are helping to build.



ICC Meeting with various Chukotkan NGOs including Yupigit Elder's Council, Marine Mammal Hunter's Association, Reindeer Herders Association, Red Cross and the Chukotka Association of Indigenous Peoples
Photo credit: ICC Alaska

ICC continues to provide financial support for ICC Chukotka members of the Executive Council to attend ICC meetings. Through the Alaska office, we are pushing for the reauthorization of a visa-free agreement between Alaska and Chukotka and engaged in several meetings with the US State Department. ICC Alaska also engaged in meetings with the US State Department regarding the establishment of the Beringia International Park in Chukotka and Alaska and requested that the governments consult with Chukotkan Inuit as the park is being established and to ensure that traditional hunting in the park would not be affected. ICC is pleased that talks between ICC Chukotka, the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka, and representatives of the Chukotka Government took place in Anadyr in July 2012 and resulted in a renewal of their cooperative agreement. ICC will continue to support all efforts within Chukotka, and through outside sources, to improve the situation for Inuit in Chukotka and for the ICC Chukotka office.

16. Children, Youth, Elders

A core ICC principle is to meaningfully engage with children, youth and elders in the work we do. In the past four years, we have pushed Arctic states to fully implement the provisions of the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. ICC Greenland took the initiative, together with a Greenland children's rights institution, to produce a primary school textbook titled *I have rights!* that explains to young children their rights under the Convention. The textbook was finalized in 2012 and distributed to schools in Greenland free of charge.

Under the Nuuk Declaration mandate, we provided opportunities (including financial assistance) to enable Inuit youth to participate in various events and programs. For example, youth participated on the boards and in annual general meetings of every ICC country office, along with elders, and are on the delegations for each ICC General Assembly. ICC Canada facilitated the participation of youth in international meetings of the

Arctic Council, including SAO and SDWG meetings. Inuit youth attended the first day of the Inuit Leaders' Summit on Arctic Resource Development and participated in the IPY Conference with help from ICC. ICC Greenland joined the youth at youth camp and educated them about ICC and the UN. ICC Alaska asked youth to serve on project

committees on all major initiatives such as the education and food security projects. Further, youth involved in the food security advisory committee are compiling photos and writing about their perspectives on food security. ICC Alaska is seeking funding to have their work published. ICC Alaska has also partnered with the First Alaskans Institute, the University of Michigan and the Caleb Scholars Program to host summer interns. ICC Canada's President participated in the 2010 National Inuit Youth Council Summit and has mentored Inuit youth onboard the 'Students on Ice' Arctic Expedition.



Photo credit: Minnie Naylor

We greatly respect the knowledge and experience of our Inuit elders. Although traveling to ICC meetings and assemblies can be difficult for some of the elders, we incorporate them as much as possible. They are directly included on country delegations and are asked to contribute to important projects such as languages.

Inuit elders are highly sought after for all ICC projects involving traditional knowledge. This includes the food security research project in Alaska, the sea ice interviews for the Circumpolar Inuit Response to the AMSA, and participation in community-based monitoring.

17. The Way Forward – by ICC Chair, Aqqaluk Lynge

Looking back, ICC has accomplished many of its objectives, particularly those regarding indigenous peoples' inclusion in international fora and the adoption of human rights instruments concerning indigenous peoples.

By establishing the Arctic Council in 1996, the Arctic states accepted the direct and meaningful participation of Arctic Indigenous peoples in the Council as Permanent Participants. The 'permanent participation' status also helped pave the way for indigenous peoples' direct inclusion into the United Nations family through the formation of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2002. ICC was an important partner in the negotiations leading to the UN General Assembly's adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007. We could not have accomplished any of this without the support of friendly governments. For example, the Nordic countries' continuous support and assistance to indigenous peoples around the world assisted in the development of diplomatic relations with and among other indigenous peoples.

The rest of the world sees in the Inuit Circumpolar Council a unique form of cooperation. This cooperation is possible because we live in a relatively calm political climate in the Arctic. Most importantly, it reflects our ability, as Inuit, to make ourselves available for dialogue, our respect for others, and our adaptability to new developments. These are

important factors of the common Inuit approach as we look forward. Over the past few decades, Inuit have built and maintained strong relationships with state governments to secure rights to lands, resources, culture, and language. Our relationships with business, academia, and others are similarly important. The fight for self-determination has been, and remains, our number one priority. A human rights approach guides our international cooperation. This will be equally true tomorrow as it was only a few years ago.

Still looking forward, it is important that the ICC leadership in all member countries continue their efforts to educate the broader public in our homelands about indigenous peoples' rights. We have worked hard to achieve what we have accomplished internationally in securing our indigenous rights – and we have done this through persistent and successful advocacy campaigns.

But, now is time to also bring back home our rights. This can be done through educating our youth on our rights, by educating the public, and by staying close to our communities. We need to, in particular, educate Inuit political leaders and civil servants on the importance of implementing our Inuit indigenous rights inside our respective jurisdictions.

Also looking forward, it is important to build on the fact that each ICC office has its way of doing its work and organizing its activities, and that they do so in a manner that is aligned with its own needs but still within the mandates of the ICC Charter and the bylaws, as well as declarations passed by the General Assembly or by ICC's Executive Council.



Each of the four Arctic states in which Inuit are citizens has a unique relationship with Inuit. We have reached various agreements to secure our rights for future generations. As we encounter new challenges in our lives, ICC will embrace the reality that we Inuit are a diverse people with a common heritage, and have existed a long time and across a vast homeland. Yet, we share one Arctic and one future of the Arctic.

ICC Executive Council

Chair

Aqqaluk Lynge (Greenland)

Canada

Vice-Chair: Duane Smith

Executive Council Member: Kirt Ejesiak

Greenland

Vice-Chair: Carl Christian Olsen (Puju)

Executive Council Member: Hjalmar Dahl

Alaska

Vice-Chair: James Stotts

Executive Council Member: Vera Metcalf

Russia

Vice-Chair: Tatiana Achirgina

Executive Council Member: Elvira Tyunikova



Photo credit: Rena Skifte

ATTACHMENT



A CIRCUMPOLAR INUIT DECLARATION ON RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES IN INUIT NUNAAT

PREAMBLE

Recognizing the Arctic's great resource wealth, the increasing global demand for the Arctic's minerals and hydrocarbons, the scope and depth of climate change and other environmental pressures and challenges facing the Arctic; Mindful of the core rights of Inuit as recognized in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, as provided for in a variety of other legal and political instruments and mechanisms, including land rights settlement legislation, land claims agreements (treaties), and self-government, intergovernmental and constitutional arrangements, and as asserted in *A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic*; and Respectful of the ingenuity, resilience and wisdom of previous generations of Inuit, confident of the ability of every generation of Inuit to adapt to change, and determined to provide for the material and cultural well-being of Inuit into the future;

WE, THE INUIT OF INUIT NUNAAT, DECLARE:

- Healthy communities and households require both a healthy environment and a healthy economy.
- Economic development and social and cultural development must go hand in hand.
- Greater Inuit economic, social and cultural self-sufficiency is an essential part of greater Inuit political self-determination.
- Renewable resources have sustained Inuit from the time preceding recorded history to the present. Future generations of Inuit will continue to rely on Arctic foods for nutritional, social, cultural and economic purposes.
- Responsible non-renewable resource development can also make an important and durable contribution to the well-being of current and future generations of Inuit. Managed under *Inuit Nunaat* governance structures, non-renewable resource development can contribute to Inuit economic and social development through both private sector channels (employment, incomes, businesses) and public sector channels (revenues from publicly owned lands, tax revenues, infrastructure).
- The pace of resource development has profound implications for Inuit. A proper balance must be struck. Inuit desire resource development at a rate sufficient to provide durable and diversified economic growth, but constrained enough to forestall environmental degradation and an overwhelming influx of outside labour.
- Resource development results in environmental and social impacts as well as opportunities for economic benefits. In the weighing of impacts and benefits, those who face the greatest and longest-lasting impacts must have the greatest opportunities, and a primary place in the decision-making. This principle applies between *Inuit Nunaat* and the rest of the world, and within *Inuit Nunaat*.
- All resource development must contribute actively and significantly to improving Inuit living standards and social conditions, and non-renewable resource development, in particular, must promote economic diversification through contributions to education and other forms of social development, physical infrastructure, and non-extractive industries.
- Inuit welcome the opportunity to work in full partnership with resource developers, governments and local communities in the sustainable development of resources of *Inuit Nunaat*, including related policy-making, to the long-lasting benefit of Inuit and with respect for baseline environmental and social responsibilities.

IN FURTHER DETAIL, WE DECLARE:

1. Candour, Clarity and Transparency

1.1 The world's peoples and their social, cultural and economic systems are becoming more interconnected, the pace of change is accelerating, the challenges faced by the world are escalating in complexity, and the risks associated with human activities are of

increasing significance.

1.2 To prosper under these circumstances, the peoples and states of the world must conduct their relations cooperatively with candour, clarity and transparency – an approach in keeping with Inuit culture and custom.

1.3 It is our desire to declare our key understandings, positions and intentions in relation to resource development, recognizing that doing so will benefit Inuit and the global community.

1.4 While the focus of this Declaration is on the development of non-renewable resources, it must be understood that (a) issues surrounding the appropriate use of non-renewable and renewable resources are inextricably linked, and (b) the principles set out in this Declaration are, in many ways, applicable to the use of renewable resources.

2. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

2.1 Resource development in *Inuit Nunaat* must be grounded in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

2.2 The UN Declaration recognizes the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination. Under that right, Inuit have the right to freely determine collectively our political, social, economic, and cultural development. Resource development in *Inuit Nunaat* directly engages our right to self-determination, and many other provisions of the UN Declaration.

2.3 Our rights as an indigenous people, including our right to self-determination, may be exercised in a practical way through governance structures that combine both Inuit and non-Inuit constituents. No matter what level or form of self-determination the Inuit of any particular region have achieved, resource development in *Inuit Nunaat* must proceed only with the free, prior, and informed consent of the Inuit of that region.

2.4 Private sector resource developers, and governments and public bodies charged with the public management of resource development, must all conduct themselves in concert with the UN Declaration. Respect for the UN Declaration should be open and transparent, and be subject to independent and impartial review.

3. A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic

3.1 Resource development in *Inuit Nunaat* must be grounded in *A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic*, adopted by the Inuit Circumpolar Council in April 2009.

3.2 *A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic* identified many principles that are relevant to the governance and carrying out of resource development in *Inuit Nunaat*, including the importance of the rule of law and recognition of the rights of Inuit as an Arctic indigenous people under both international and domestic law.

4. Inuit as Partners in Policy Making and Decision Making

4.1 Central to *A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic* is the requirement that Inuit must be active and equal partners in policy-making and decision-making affecting *Inuit Nunaat*.

4.2 Partnerships with Inuit in relation to resource development will have different characteristics depending on the circumstances, but the spirit and substance of partnership must extend to both public sector governance and private sector enterprise.

4.3 Partnerships must include the meaningful engagement and active participation of Inuit in local communities who are most directly affected by resource development in *Inuit Nunaat*.

4.4 Partnerships must draw upon the growing capacity and aspirations of Inuit businesses and enterprises through use of vehicles such as joint ventures, commercial mechanisms for facilitating equity participation, and the issuance of land and resource rights through licences, leases and similar instruments.

4.5 Inuit recognize the need within *Inuit Nunaat* to create and implement inter-Inuit consultation mechanisms to ensure that

approval of major resource development projects in one Inuit region, with major environmental and other implications for one or more adjacent Inuit regions, is accompanied by sufficient opportunity for an informed exchange of information and opinion between or among the Inuit regions.

5. Global Environmental Security

5.1 Inuit and others – through their institutions and international instruments – have a shared responsibility to evaluate the risks and benefits of their actions through the prism of global environmental security.

5.2 Resource development in *Inuit Nunaat* must contribute to, and not detract from, global, national and regional efforts to curb greenhouse emissions and should always be seen through the reality of climate change.

5.3 In their implementation of mechanisms for adaptation to climate change, states and the international community as a whole must commit to paying the cost of climate change adaptation measures and the upgrading of fuel-related infrastructure in *Inuit Nunaat* regions and communities.

5.4 Resource development projects must not exacerbate the climate change-related stresses on the survival of Arctic wildlife.

5.5 To minimize risk to global environmental security, the pace of resource development in the Arctic must be carefully considered.

6. Healthy Communities in a Healthy Environment

6.1 The physical and mental health of human communities and individuals cannot be separated from the health of the natural environment.

6.2 Resource development proposals for *Inuit Nunaat* must be assessed holistically, placing human needs at the centre.

6.3 Resource development in *Inuit Nunaat* must promote the physical and mental health of communities and individuals within *Inuit Nunaat*.

6.4 Resource development must enhance, not detract from, Inuit food security.

6.5 In a contemporary context, healthy communities in the Arctic require the establishment, maintenance and improvement of: core infrastructure needs, including housing, education, health care and social service delivery infrastructure, and core transportation and communications networks that facilitate both public sector activities and private sector entrepreneurship.

7. Economic Self-Sufficiency and the Sustainable Development of Resources in Inuit Nunaat

7.1 Inuit seek to make use of the economic opportunities available through long-term development of the resources of *Inuit Nunaat*.

7.2 Resource development in *Inuit Nunaat* must be sustainable. It must serve the needs of Inuit today without compromising the ability of Inuit to meet their needs of tomorrow.

7.3 The proponent of a resource development project bears the burden of demonstrating that the proposed development is sustainable.

7.4 In determining the sustainability of a resource development initiative, the best available scientific and Inuit knowledge and standards must be determined and employed.

7.5 International standard-setting bodies must seek and secure direct and meaningful input from Inuit. National, regional and local bodies, such as offshore and land management regimes, must be designed and operated to be effective, transparent and accountable, thereby gaining and sustaining the confidence of the Inuit public at all times.

7.6 Sustainability standards must emphasize the need for the demonstrated support of those communities directly affected by a resource development proposal.

8. Impact Assessment, Prevention and Mitigation

8.1 Notwithstanding property rights or government rights-granting regimes, there is no free-standing or unqualified "right" to proceed

with non-renewable resource development in *Inuit Nunaat*. Projects must be scrutinized by Inuit and proved to be in the best interests of Inuit and the wider public.

8.2 Land and offshore management regimes must include (a) long-term land use plans that set out ground rules for development applicable to specific projects, and (b) robust impact assessment processes to gauge the likely impacts of specific projects.

8.3 Management, land use planning and impact assessment regimes must address the cumulative impacts of existing and potential projects and, where prudent, limit the number and scope of projects permitted.

8.4 Impact assessments covering broad geographic areas are important and necessary management tools, and their completion in advance of specific project proposals should be encouraged.

8.5 Impact assessments should examine all potential environmental, socio-economic and cultural impacts anticipated both during the project and after the project is completed or abandoned.

8.6 In accordance with relevant provisions of the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle must be applied in all stages of project planning, assessment, implementation and reclamation.

8.7 Reclamation and recovery of habitat and affected lands and waters must be thoroughly planned and fully funded in advance of and throughout project implementation.

8.8 All development in *Inuit Nunaat* must adhere to the most developed and demanding environmental standards taking Arctic conditions fully into account. (For example, mining operations and offshore hydro-carbon development should entail zero-volume discharge onto land and into Arctic waters.)

8.9 Preventing spills offshore and eliminating release of toxic substances to land and waters are paramount. Prevention efforts should be viewed as investments that pay dividends in cost avoidance.

8.10 Response to spills, contamination of lands or waters, and mining emergencies must meet the highest technological standards and be anchored in proven cleanup technologies with full Inuit participation.

8.11 Proposals for spill response in Arctic waters must include a proven demonstration of the industry's ability to retrieve spilled oil in frozen, broken and refreezing ice conditions. Allowing resource development without such a demonstration would be fundamentally irresponsible.

8.12 Effective oil spill prevention and response in Arctic waters requires active monitoring of vessel traffic and swift and effective emergency response in the event of mishap. Public authorities and developers with relevant responsibilities must commit to increased investment in navigation aids, vessel traffic management, ship compliance inspections, security considerations, emergency response capability, and overall port and harbour infrastructure.

8.13 Standards and requirements for Arctic marine pilots must be carefully conceived and strictly applied.

8.14 An international liability and compensation regime for contamination of lands, waters and marine areas resulting from offshore oil exploration and exploitation must be established.

8.15 Respecting the Arctic Council's "Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines" as minimum standards.

9. Improving Inuit Living Standards and Expanding Inuit Governance

9.1 Inuit expect that new resource development projects will contribute to an improvement in our material well-being. This expectation is well-rooted in the fundamental features of relevant international indigenous and human rights laws and standards, in the underlying constitutional constructs and political values of the four Arctic States in which Inuit live, and in the application of

fairness and reason.

9.2 Through a variety of mechanisms – land rights settlement legislation, land claims agreements (treaties), self-government arrangements, and intergovernmental and Constitutional provisions – Inuit have acquired critical means and levels of control over the governance of *Inuit Nunaat*. Many of these mechanisms provide for direct Inuit participation in specialized resource management bodies, including planning, project review, and regulatory bodies.

9.3 While this trend is primarily a result of Inuit effort and determination, it has often been assisted and welcomed as healthy and normative by and within the four Arctic States.

9.4 Accordingly, resource development projects must take into account the trend toward greater Inuit self-governance and, to the extent possible, advance it.

9.5 Public sector revenues derived from all phases of resource development should be distributed in a fair and visible way according to the following hierarchy of priorities:

(1) providing security against unplanned or unintended environmental consequences, (2) compensating for negative community and regional impacts, (3) contributing to the improvement of community and regional living standards and overall well-being, and (4) contributing to the fiscal health and stability of institutions and mechanisms of Inuit governance. Only after the legitimate needs of the Inuit of *Inuit Nunaat* are met, should public sector revenues contribute to the coffers of central State treasuries.

9.6 Inuit employment at all levels must be maximized in resource development activities in *Inuit Nunaat*.

9.7 Independent of the rate of resource development, Inuit must derive direct and substantial employment income benefit from resource development projects. Accordingly, an Inuit education fund should be established in each of Canada, Greenland, Russia and the U.S.A. with public sector investments.

10. Promoting and Accommodating a Dynamic Inuit Culture

10.1 Many international law principles and standards in relation to indigenous peoples are rooted in the strong conviction that the development and preservation of human cultural diversity is both a responsibility and a benefit for all humanity. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples acknowledges that indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their language, traditional knowledge and cultural heritage and expressions.

10.2 Inuit culture is both well-rooted and dynamic. Inuit are committed to ensuring that resource development projects must be planned and implemented in such a way as to support and enhance Inuit culture, rather than subvert or overwhelm it.

10.3 Inuit are committed to safe-guarding Inuit culture against excess adverse pressures and impacts that could be brought on by an overly ambitious, ill timed, or poorly planned and implemented staging of major resource development projects, particularly insofar as such a scenario precipitated a major influx of non-Inuit while failing to impart the technologies, skills and training, and business opportunities needed by Inuit.

10.4 Governments, public bodies and private sector actors in *Inuit Nunaat* must share in these commitments.

We, the Inuit of *Inuit Nunaat*, are committed to the principles on resource development in *Inuit Nunaat* set out in this Declaration. Inuit invite – and are entitled to expect – all those who have or seek a role in the governance, management, development, or use of the resources of *Inuit Nunaat* to conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of this Declaration.

www.inuit.org
www.inuitcircumpolar.com
www.iccalaska.org


Jim Stotts · Vice Chair, Alaska


Tatiana Achingina · Vice Chair, Chukotka


Aqqaluk Lynge · Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council


Duane Smith · Vice Chair, Canada


Carl Christian Olsen · Vice Chair, Greenland