

# DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

April 20-22 • Kawerak Regional Conference • Nome, Alaska • www.kawerak.org

April 28-29 • Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials Meeting • Ilulissat, Greenland • www.arctic-council.org

May 28 • Arctic Council Deputy Ministers Meeting • Copenhagen, Denmark • www.arctic-council.org

May 17-21 • International Network for Circumpolar Health Research Annual Meeting • Copenhagen Denmark • www.inchr.com

May 31-June 4 • International Symposium on Sea Ice • Tromso, Norway • www.iqsoc.org

June 8-12 • The IPY Oslo Science Conference • Oslo, Norway • www.ipy-osc.no

June 16-18 • Arctic Council EPPR Working Group Meeting • Vorkuta, Russia • www.artic-council.org

June 28-July 2 • ICC General Assembly • Nuuk, Greenland • www.inuit.org



### **Delegates Hold Workshop** By ICC Alaska Staff



Alaska delegates to the Nuuk 2010 ICC General Assembly. Photo By: Freda Jimmie

ICC Alaska delegates met recently in Anchorage to prepare for the upcoming General Assembly in Greenland. The workshop was held February 24–25 at the Hilton Hotel and included Assembly planning committee members and ICC staff.

ICC Chair Jim Stotts provided background information on the four ICC countries, including structures of the four ICC offices; on ICC International, including the Charter, Bylaws and Utkiagvik Declaration; on ICC involvement with the Arctic Council, United Nations, European Commission, and Nordic Council.

The delegates discussed important ICC issues: climate change, food security, Arctic sovereignty, resource development, health, language and education. Jim informed the delegates about the work that ICC has done on these issues over the past three years and what to expect at the Assembly on these and other topics.

Alaska Executive Director Kelly Eningowuk briefed everyone on the status of travel arrangements and other logistical matters, and presented the General Assembly draft agenda and draft cultural program.

Alaska's delegates to the Nuuk General Assembly are: ICC Chair Jim Stotts; ICC Executive Council Members Edward Itta and Chuck Greene; North Slope delegates Eugene Brower, Tara Sweeny and George Edwardson; Northwest delegates Martha Whiting, Jackie Hill Don Sheldon and Roland Booth; Bering Straits delegates Robert Keith, Merlin Koonooka, Roy Ashenfelter and Lee Ryan; and Southwest delegates Myron Naneng, Raymond Watson, Paul John and Deanna Latham.



# ICC ALASKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## A Message from ICC-AK President Edward Saggan Itta



New policy on offshore oil favors local concerns in the Arctic

When Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar made his first official visit to Alaska last year, he talked about the importance of balancing energy needs and community concerns when it comes to offshore oil and gas development in the Arctic Ocean. I met with him early this spring in Washington, D.C., and I reminded him of his statement about finding a balance as the Obama

Administration charts its course on offshore exploration. He repeated his pledge.

During that trip to Washington, as in previous visits, I met with several high-ranking officials in the Interior Department, and each time I did my best to lay out our concerns and our ideas as to what a "balanced approach" would look like.

Our efforts to engage with the Obama Administration paid off on March 31, when the President and Interior Secretary Salazar announced their new offshore oil and gas development policy. This new plan keeps the entire West Coast of the Lower 48 states off limits to development, and it opens up most of the East Coast from Delaware south. In Alaska, existing leases will be honored but all upcoming lease sales are cancelled until scientific studies create the basis for a clearer understanding of the offshore marine environment, including the marine mammals and other animals we depend on for our subsistence way of life.

This is the balanced approach I have been asking for. Existing leases are allowed to go forward in the Beaufort and Chukchi because of the large investment already made in those leases. At the same time, all the scheduled lease sales in both the current five-year plan and the proposed 2012-2017 plan are postponed so adequate baseline science can be gathered.

Secretary Salazar apparently meant what he said about finding a balance, and while people on all sides of this issue can criticize elements of the plan, it does represent a significant improvement from our perspective. The new federal policy elevates the concerns of local people and the importance of science-based decisions beyond anything we have seen in many years. By doing this, the plan addresses core concerns in the eight-point offshore policy position I have been promoting for over a year.

During our meeting last month, Secretary Salazar asked me when I thought he should come to visit the North Slope. I suggested August. He pulled out his calendar and said he could come during the second week of the month.

You can see why I'm feeling encouraged by the relationship we are developing with top officials of the federal department that manages so much of our land and waters. Federal policy could always be more to our liking, but experience tells us it can be a heck of a lot worse too.

## Oceans Five Meet Again By ICC Alaska Staff

In May 2008, ministers from the five coastal Arctic states (United States, Canada, Norway, Denmark and Russia) met in Ilulissat, Greenland, to discuss Arctic sovereignty. Inuit were excluded from the meeting although Aqqaluk Lynge, ICC Greenland President, was allowed to make some opening remarks to the ministers just prior to the closed meeting. The three Arctic nations without Arctic Ocean coastlines (Sweden, Iceland and Finland) were also excluded from the meeting. The "Oceans Five" were criticized by Inuit and the excluded nations for having the meeting outside of the Arctic Council.

This closed meeting prompted ICC to organize an Inuit Leaders Summit in November 2008 to discuss Arctic sovereignty from the Inuit perspective. The summit resulted in "A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic," dated April 2009. This declaration has been reported on and highlighted in earlier issues of DRUM.

So it came as a surprise in early February when ICC learned of a second proposed Oceans Five meeting. Canadian Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon announced that Canada would host an Oceans Five meeting on March 29 in Chelsea, Quebec. This gathering would take place just prior to a G8 Foreign Ministers meeting in Gatineau, Quebec, on March 29 and 30.

On February 10, ICC Chair Jim Stotts contacted Minister Cannon to request that ICC be allowed to participate at

the meeting and asked that Duane Smith, ICC Canada President, be allowed to represent ICC at the meeting. Minister Cannon responded by saying that he would be willing to meet with ICC Canada, Arctic Athabaskan Council and Gwich'in Council International on March 23 in advance of the Oceans Five meeting. From ICC's perspective this offer to meet prior to the Oceans Five meeting was just not good enough.

ICC recognizes the right of Arctic States to meet whenever they choose. However, if the discussion topics are under the purview of the Arctic Council then we feel they should be discussed at the Council. The issues for the meeting proposed by Minister Cannon were all topics currently being considered by the Arctic Council.

The ICC Chair then entered into discussions with the U.S. State Department to raise ICC concerns about the five-nation forum. These discussions were useful in briefing Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who would be representing the U.S. at the Foreign Ministers meetings. ICC is happy to report that Secretary Clinton sided with ICC and stated publicly at the meeting that in the future these discussions should be held at the Arctic Council level with the full participation of the other three Arctic states and Arctic indigenous peoples. ICC is hopeful that this will put an end to any future meetings of the so-called Oceans Five.

## Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group Update By Taqulik Hepa

The Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Management Board meeting took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, on March 7-9. ICC Alaska was represented by Taqulik Hepa, who served as a permanent participant in this working group.

The CAFF program is the biodiversity working group of the Arctic Council. Its mission is to address the conservation of biodiversity and communicate its findings to governments and residents of the Arctic. CAFF working group representatives from Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Russia, United States and participant observers from ICC Greenland, ICC Alaska, Saami Council and Aleut International Association were in attendance. Currently the CAFF chairmanship is held by Iceland.

#### **CAFF** programs

Arctic Biodiversity Assessment: The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) is a baseline of information that is used to assess Arctic biodiversity and inform Arctic Council work:

At a recent meeting of Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) in Norway, the ABA was well received, and Denmark/Greenland stepped forward as a co-lead alongside the U.S. and Finland.

Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010 - Selected Indicators of Change: The CAFF Management Board reviewed and provided continued on page 4

## Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group Update continued from page 3

comments for this report. A final draft will be presented to the SAOs for review and approval at their April 28 meeting in Greenland. It has been decided to release the report at the International Polar Year (IPY) Science Conference in Olso, Norway, on June 8-12. The report will be presented by the SAO chairman as a keynote address at the IPY conference.

It was also decided to highlight the ABA 2010 report at other venues such as the Deputy Ministers meeting in Copenhagen (May 27), COP 10 in Japan (October 18-29), and other relevant events. This is the first deliverable of the ABA. It presents 22 indicators of trends in the Arctic biodiversity.

Scientific Report: Dr. Hans Meltofte (ABA Chief Scientist) gave an update on the status of the ABA Scientific Report. Authors met in early March to map out a timeline. There will be a traditional ecological knowledge component, and all aspects of the report will be peer reviewed. The final report is expected to be done by the spring of 2013.

Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme: The Arctic Species Trent Index (ASTI) report is near completion and will be presented at the State of the Arctic Conference in Miami on March 16-19. The ASTI uses population monitoring data to track trends in marine, terrestrial and freshwater Arctic vertebrate species. The database includes nearly 1,000 datasets of Arctic population trends. This report was commissioned by the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP).

#### **New Projects:**

CAFF has now compiled an updated protected areas dataset for the Arctic. Iceland proposed to lead this project, which focuses on protected areas which have a marine/coastal component. This project may be developed in cooperation with PAME.

The next CAFF Management Board meeting will be held in the fall of 2010 in Iceland.



## ICC Celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! By ICC Alaska Staff

Inuit from Canada, Greenland and Alaska discussed their common vision when Eben Hopson Sr. hosted the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference in June of 1977. But it was not until three years later in Nuuk, Greenland, that ICC was formally organized. At the conference in Nuuk, the ICC Charter and Bylaws were adopted and the first President and Executive Council were elected.

The upcoming General Assembly in Nuuk this summer will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ICC's organization. A commemorative sculpture will be unveiled in Nuuk as part of the special celebrations.



The first ICC Executive Council. L to R: Oscar Kawagley (Alaska), Jim Stotts (Alaska), Lars Chemnitz (Greenland), Hans-Pavia Rosing, President (Greenland), Mary Simon (Canada), John Amagoalik (Canada), and Aqqaluk Lynge (Greenland). Photo by: Unknown



## Report from ICC Chair By Jim Stotts

Inoqatigiinneq - Sharing Life

With only three months to go before the 11<sup>th</sup> Inuit Circumpolar Council General Assembly, people are getting excited. The theme for the Assembly is "Inoqatigiinneq-Sharing Life". The Assembly will be held in Nuuk, Greenland, June 28<sup>th</sup> through July 2<sup>nd</sup>. This General

Assembly has special significance as ICC celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Preparations for the Assembly began well over a year ago and have really picked up during the past few months. The Assembly agenda and cultural program are both in the final stages of completion.

The cultural program in particular promises to be a high point of the week-long event. Inuit culture will be celebrated from all corners of our homeland through dance, song, theater and sport. An Inuit film festival and contemporary art exhibition will be featured attractions. I'm sure there will be some great traditional food to sample along the way. It will be a great time to renew old friendships and make new ones. Don't forget to bring your smile.

The four countries have been busy selecting delegates, staff and cultural performers. Fundraising and travel arrangements have occupied much ICC staff time. VIPs and expert presenters on the important topics have been invited. I'm proud to say that ICC staff and volunteers have done a great job getting ready. I want to thank Elsie Itta, Jackie Hill, Melanie Edwards and Vivian Korthius for their help on the ICC Alaska Assembly Planning Committee.

ICC has invited His Royal Highness Frederik, Crown Prince of Denmark, to be the Assembly Honorary Patron. We are hopeful his busy schedule will allow him to attend. The future King of Denmark is quite popular with the people of Greenland. In addition to the opening ceremony, he plans to attend the opening of the new Center for Arctic Human Rights.

In addition to public performances every evening, there will be demonstrations of traditional games and qajaq skills, storytelling by Greenland elders, a fashion show, a traditional Inuit soccer game, and a Choir Concert at Hans Egede's Church. Our culture will definitely be in the spotlight. Don't forget to bring your pride.

On Monday, the General Assembly features speeches and reports from ICC officials and invited dignitaries. The next three days will hold workshops on: economic development, hunting and food security, health and wellness, environment, and governance. The Assembly will conclude on Thursday with the presentation of the Assembly Declaration, presentation of the new Chair and Executive Council, and gift giving.

Friday will be a free day in which a number of cultural and social events will be hosted, culminating with a closing concert in the evening. This will be a great to time to unwind and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Nuuk. Hopefully the weather will cooperate. Don't forget to bring

your camera. 🗶

For More Information on the 11th ICC General Assembly go to: www.inuit.org



Photo by: ICC Alaska Staff

## **Beverly Shontz Eliason Joins the Office By ICC Alaska Staff**

We are pleased to announce that Beverly Shontz Eliason has joined our office as Administrative Director.

She joins our team with years of experience in the administration and finance fields. She previously worked for the North Slope Borough as Budget Manager and Deputy Director of Administration and Finance and in different positions at several ASRC subsidiaries. She attended California State University and Fresno City College and has an accounting degree.

Beverly was born in Barrow. Her parents are Allen and Lena Mae Shontz. Her grandparents are Henry and Evelyn Nashaknik. Her Inupiaq names are Aalaak and Nauyak.

Beverly recently moved back to Alaska from Seattle with her three boys: Nashaknik, age 15, Shane, 8, and Sammy, 6. She mentioned that they are excited to be back in

Alaska because they all love spending time outdoors fishing, clamming, picking berries and finding new adventures.

Beverly's e-mail is beverly@iccalaska.org and can be reached at 907.565.4053.

We are very glad to have Beverly Eliason join our office staff, and we know her expertise in administration and finance will be a tremendous asset to the organization.

### SDWG Begins Strategic Planning Discussions By ICC Alaska Staff

A special roundtable was held prior to the regular meeting of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) of the Arctic Council in Copenhagen in early March. The roundtable was held within the context of strategic planning, an effort mandated in the SDWG work plan for 2009-2011 and led by Canada.

One purpose of the roundtable was to discuss SDWG areas of cooperation with the other Arctic Council working groups and expert bodies. The SDWG is focused on the human dimension

and has been approached by the other working groups who do not have such mandates but are increasingly including the socio-economic research in their projects. It was clear at this meeting that the Arctic Council working groups need to identify processes for better cooperation.

Also discussed at the roundtable was the issue of observers, their role and participation in the SDWG. ICC offered to share our position paper on the observer issue and expressed our concern that the influx of observers

to the Arctic Council and its working groups could diminish our voice as a Permanent Participant.

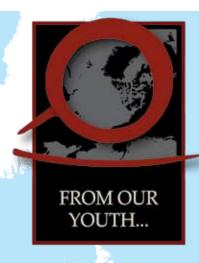
A full report of the roundtable discussions will be made available soon. The information gathered will be used in the full SDWG strategic planning process, which is expected to roll over into the Swedish chairmanship.

ICC will continue to be involved in the SDWG strategic planning process and will report back on further developments.

Check Out Our Website!

www.iccalaska.org

"DRUM" is now online!



#### **Generation I Tours NW Arctic Region** By Elizabeth Hensley

The Generation I tour premier was a success! Generation I is a rallying of positive forces among Inuit youth and young adults to celebrate life, with a goal of reducing suicide rates in our communities. In the last issue of The Drum, it was reported that the Hope and Resilience in Suicide Prevention Seminar in November 2009 in Greenland provided the final push for one Alaskan Inupiaq to take action on the suicide pandemic plaguing the Arctic. Thus was born Generation I, a group of six young(ish) Inuit who wanted to spend time with young people in the Northwest Arctic and share through workshops the skills that keep them balanced and help them maintain the strong sense of Inuit identity that is so critical to their success in life. The six workshop hosts were: Allison Akootchook Warden of Kaktovik/Anchorage; James Milukruk Dommek, Jr. of Kotzebue/Anchorage; Greta Inuuraaq Schuerch of Kiana/Anchorage; Elizabeth Saagulik Hensley of Kotzebue/Anchorage; Karina Moeller of Nuuk, Greenland/Anchorage; and Maligiaq Padilla of Sisimiut, Greenland.

The workshops conducted in Kotzebue, Selawik and Kiana from December 28 through January 8 included percussion, vocal improvisation, guitar, movement, Inupiaq dance, rap, beatmaking, theater, storytelling, kayak-building, rope gymnastics, Inuit games and yoga. Workshop hosts also facilitated conversations about life, in which youth reflected on the past year and considered their goals for the coming year. In each town, Generation I held a concert, workshops at the school, and then an "open mic" concert in which workshop participants performed. The magic happened when the youth took the stage and expressed their creativity to the crowd. There were rappers, drummers, singers, dancers - the full gamut of artists, some of whom had made music before, some who were brand new to making art. The common thread among them was that by the end of the workshops, they possessed the confidence needed to get on stage and share their skills; it is this confidence that assures us that the future of our communities is in good hands.



Maligiaq Padilla demonstrates Greenlandic rope gymnastics to kids visiting from the day care. Photo by: Elizabeth Hensley

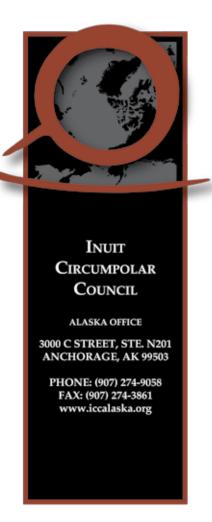
One highlight of the tour was the building of a full-sized qajaq by Maligiaq Padilla, with assistance from workshop participants and Ross Schaeffer. The qajaq remains on display at Sulaingich Art Center in Kotzebue and will be put in the water for use this spring. Another highlight was the New Year's Eve bash that Generation I held at the Nullagvik Hotel in collaboration with about 25 youth. This drug and alcohol-free party featured an open mic concert and lots of laughing and fun. The crowning achievement of the tour was experienced in bearing witness to the flame that burns in each community's youth, elders and everybody in between.

The Generation I workshop hosts experienced a warm, loving reception in each community, and they express their gratitude to the following organizations and individuals for making the tour possible: Inuit Circumpolar Council-Alaska, Alaska State Council on the Arts, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation, Maniilaq



Allison Warden performing a story in Kiana. Photo by: Elizabeth Hensley

Association, NANA/Teck Cominco, Northwest Arctic Borough, Northwest Arctic Borough School District, Kotzebue High School, Native Village of Kotzebue, Nullagvik Hotel, Marge and John Baker, Agnik and Tarruq Schaeffer, Ross and Millie Schaeffer, Vika Owens, Bret Conner, James McClellan, Glenn Miller, Pierre Lonewolf and KOTZ Radio, Larry and Christina Westlake, Larry Westlake and Mary Black, Lori and Nellie Schuerch, Kiana School, Selawik Davis-Ramoth School, the Selawik Clinic, Diana Ramoth and Peachy.







The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) representing the Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka. ICC Alaska, along with other members, strives to strengthen, protect, and develop Inuit rights in the circumpolar region.

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