

DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN
Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA
Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2-3 • Arctic Council ACAP Working Group Meeting • Oslo, Norway • www.arctic-council.org

September 13 • Arctic Council Arctic Ocean Review Workshop • Washington, DC • www.arctic-council.org

September 13-15 • Arctic Science Conference • Anchorage, AK • <https://www.signup4.net/public/ap.aspx?EID=ARCT12E&OID=50>

September 14-15 • Arctic Council PAME Working Group Meeting • Washington DC • www.arctic-council.org

September 22-24 • Arctic Council CAFF Working Group meeting • Hvalsvollur, Iceland • www.arctic-council.org

October 2-3 • Arctic Council SDWG Meeting • Illulisaat, Greenland • www.arctic-council.org

October 19-20 • Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials Meeting • Faroe Islands • www.arctic-council.org

October 21-23 • Alaska Federation of Natives Conference • Fairbanks, AK • www.nativefederation.org

October 27-30 • Model Arctic Council • Whitehorse, Yukon Canada • www.ModelArcticCouncil.org

November 2-4 • IUCN/NRDC Workshop to Identify Ecologically Important and Vulnerable Marine Areas in the High Arctic • San Diego, CA • www.iucn.org



ICC General Assembly - Photo by Bill Hess

Nuuk Declaration Highlights

By ICC Alaska Staff

The Nuuk Declaration was adopted on the final day of the General Assembly. The declaration represents six months of thoughtful work by the ICC executive, staff and delegates. GA declarations go through a rigorous consultation process. The declaration represents Inuit concerns at the international level and sets the mandate and work agenda for ICC for the upcoming four-year term.

Highlights of the declaration included recognition and celebration of past accomplishments, including the 30th anniversary of ICC, passage of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and adoption of the Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic.

ICC was instructed to continue and strengthen its involvement with international bodies such as the Arctic Council and the UN and its various bodies and agencies. ICC was encouraged to initiate consultations with regional state bodies such as the European Union, the Organization of American States and the G-20 countries so that they fully consider Inuit rights and interests in their policy making.

ICC was mandated to present and discuss the Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty with our respective countries in order to raise Inuit governance concerns across the Inuit homeland and to treat our homeland as an integral whole.

There were directives related to the UN Declaration on Indigenous Rights including: analyzing the UN Declaration in the context of Inuit, encouraging Inuit to learn about the Declaration and its provisions, and working towards full implementation of the Declaration by Arctic states.

ICC was mandated to meaningfully engage children, youth and elders in the work of ICC and encourage all Arctic states to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

There were directives related to the issue of hunting and food security including: Inuit rights to manage animal resources, fighting the European Union ban on seal products and other bans on marine mammal products, engaging with Inuit hunters on international instruments that support their right to hunt, and redefining hunting as a profession within all international human rights forums.



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A Message from ICC-AK President

Edward Saggan Itta



The Inuit Mission Continues


The time has come for me to step aside and welcome new leadership at ICC-Alaska. After four years as President of this organization, I decided not to seek another term because of my heavy workload as North Slope Borough Mayor. I'm reluctant to give up this role, because ICC-Alaska is close to my heart and I want to see it continue to grow stronger. However, I recognize that it's really difficult to do both jobs effectively.

Fortunately, we are blessed with very capable people like Jim Stotts and Vera Metcalf to guide the organization into the future. Jim will take over as

President of ICC-Alaska and Vera will serve as Vice-President. I appreciate their commitment to the task, and I have every confidence in their ability to continue making ICC more relevant in addressing the Inuit agenda and the needs of our people in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic regions.

I am pleased and honored to have been involved in international Inuit representation, and I hope the organization will continue to pursue the priorities established in the 2006 Utkeagvik Declaration: subsistence hunting and fishing; tribal issues; and healthy communities. These are fundamental concerns for our people across regional and national boundaries.

I look forward to participating in the Inuit leaders' summit on resource development that was called for at the recent General Assembly in Nuuk. This is one of the core issues for Inuit people trying to participate in decision-making that impacts our lands and waters significantly.

I want to wish the best to Jim and Vera in their work on the Executive Council. Jim has done an excellent job of filling in as the Chair of ICC International during the past year-and-a-half, and Kelly Eningowuk also deserves our thanks for taking over as ICC-Alaska Executive Director during that time. We have a strong leadership contingent with talent and skills and the dedication to represent us on the world stage. I look forward to hearing about their accomplishments in the years ahead. 

High School Youth Opportunity

Model Arctic Council

October 27-30

Whitehorse, Yukon Canada

The United Nations Association of Canada is pleased to announce its inaugural Model Arctic Council to be held October 27-30, 2010 in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada. High school from across the northernmost reaches of Canada, along with delegations from other Arctic countries, will gather to deliberate on some of the most pressing issues confronting the Arctic. For More Information, please go to www.ModelArcticCouncil.org.

Inuit Leaders' Summit Forthcoming

By ICC Alaska Staff

The Nuuk Declaration calls for an Inuit leaders' summit on resource development. In the Hereby section of the Declaration, point 20 states: "Instruct ICC, as a matter of urgency, to plan and facilitate an Inuit leaders' summit on resource development with the aim of developing a common circumpolar Inuit position on environmental, economic, social and cultural assessment processes and, as a first order of business, raise funds for such a summit." Three issues contributed to the decision to hold this summit.

First, there's concern about the adequacy of environmental and social impact assessment of development projects in the Arctic. In particular there's concern that Inuit don't have access to information and the ability to present their concerns on projects. ICC's position is that Inuit have the right to participate fully during the assessment process on development projects affecting them and their environment.

Second, Greenland's decision to proceed with oil drilling in the Davis Strait between Canada and Greenland in light of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill has raised concerns about oil drilling in Arctic waters. Alaskan and Canadian Inuit, as well as the

ICC, have expressed a desire to have a moratorium on drilling until a thorough review of the Gulf spill can be conducted. Greenland believes revenues from oil and gas resources are a key to its future economic and political independence and is moving ahead with drilling.

Third, concerns about uranium mining have surfaced in three different areas of the Inuit homeland, Nunavut, Nunatsiavut and southern Greenland. Nunavut appears ready to allow mining, while Nunatsiavut and Greenland are still considering whether or not to allow uranium mining. ICC has a long standing position against uranium mining and nuclear weapons in the Arctic.

What's interesting in all three instances is the fact that these resource developments are under Inuit control and direction. The outside world is watching to see how Inuit will proceed. Once funds are raised, ICC will select a date and location for the Inuit leaders' summit. The summit will hopefully result in the development of a common position on these important issues moving forward.

There will be more on the leaders' summit in future issues of DRUM. 

General Assembly Election Results

Greenlanders Carl Christian Olsen and Hjalmar Dahl, Canadians Duane Smith and Kirk Ejeesiak, Chukotkans Tatiana Achirgina and Elvira Tyunikova, and Alaskans Jimmy Stotts and Vera Metcalf were elected to the ICC Executive Council.

Carl Christian Olsen, Duane Smith, Tatiana Achirgina, and Jimmy Stotts were elected ICC Country Presidents within their respective countries and Vice-Chairs of ICC International.

Greenlander Aqqaluk Lyngé was elected Chair of ICC International.

Members of the Executive Council are elected to four-year terms.


continued from page 1

There were several mandates related to science and research, traditional knowledge, and education. ICC Greenland's initiative to establish an Inuit Centre for International Understanding and the Canadian Inuit effort to establish the Inuit Knowledge Centre were recognized. ICC was mandated to host an education summit of experts and practitioners to help each other develop culturally appropriate curriculum, and to develop further recommendations on education.

ICC's past work in culture, language, health, environment, biodiversity and climate change were recognized and specific directives and mandates were given to ICC to continue important work in these fields.

ICC was mandated to address the unique situation of Inuit (Yupik) of Chukotka and the problems they contend with by planning practical projects jointly with the other ICC offices.

Throughout the declaration there are references to Arctic Council initiatives, projects and assessments. The Arctic Council is recognized as the central forum for international cooperation in the Arctic.

As mentioned elsewhere in this issue of DRUM, an Inuit Leaders' Summit was mandated on the topic of resource development. For the full text of the Nuuk Declaration please visit www.iccalaska.org. 



Greenland Mask Dance, Photo By: Bill Hess



Wainwright Dancers, Photo By: Bill Hess



Artcirc Performance, Photo By: Bill Hess



Russian Dancers, Photo By: Aleks Vakhr



Alaska Delegates George Edwardson, Paul John, and Raymond Watson, Photo By: Bill Hess



Alaskans Deanna Latham & Greta Schuerch, Photo By: Hans-Pavia Rosing

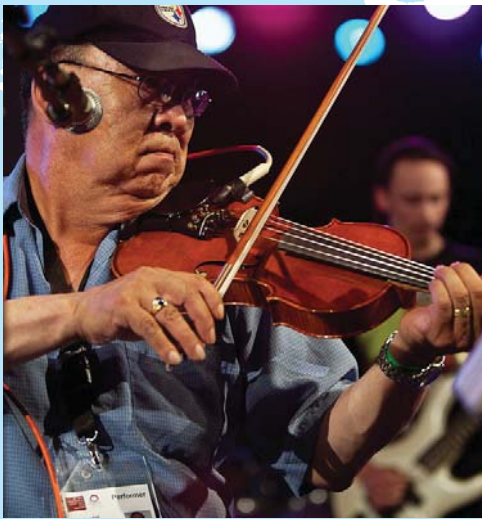
Greenland June 28-July 2, 2010



Pamyua Performance, Photo By: Malakias Jakobsen



Greenland Fiddle & Accordion, Photo By: Bill Hess



Kuskokwim Fiddle Band, Photo By: Bill Hess



Canadian Throat Singers, Photo By: Malakias Jakobsen



Sume Performance, Photo By: Malakias Jakobsen



Greenland Delegation, Photo By: Carol Simon



INUIT

Inoqatigiinneq • Sharing Life
Celebrating 30 years of cooperation

ICC 2010
General Assembly
June 28 - July 2
Nuuk
Greenland



Chairs' GA Speech

By Jim Stotts, ICC Chair

The New Arctic

(The Next 30 Years)

In 1980, 30 years ago, our situation was different.

In Greenland, the home-rule government was one year old and a member of the European Union. Their economy was fuelled by grants from Denmark and a thriving

fishing industry. Greenland's state-owned companies were just starting up. Nuuk was a town full of optimism.

In Canada, only northern Quebec had settled land claims. ITC was ITC, and ITC was floundering due to lack of funds and a Canadian government unwilling to seriously settle land claims. The James Bay Agreement was five years old.

In Alaska, ANCSA was nine years old. Some regional and village corporations were struggling. Native peoples at the village level were starting to realize that hunting and self determination rights had not been settled. Oil had started to flow through the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and Alaska's oil boom was on.

In Chukotka, our people were not allowed to attend ICC gatherings due to the Cold War. We raised a Russian flag and set an empty chair at the table in recognition of our missing people.

Thirty years ago, there was no Arctic Council, no ICC NGO status, no UN Declaration on Indigenous Rights, no diamond mines, no uranium mines, no offshore drilling in Arctic waters, and very little concern for global warming. The outside was just beginning to move into Inuit territory to search for resources to develop.

Let's fast forward 30 years to 2010, to the *New Arctic*.

In Greenland, the self-rule government is one year old and no longer a member of the European Union. Their economy is more diverse and they now own their mineral resources including the offshore. Greenland's state-owned companies are up and running. The Greenland government has matured into a responsible institution. Nuuk City is still full of optimism and doubled in size.

In Canada, all Inuit regions have settled land claims, the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Nunavut, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut. Inuit organizations are active participants in Canadian commerce and politics, wielding considerable political and economic clout. I sense deeper pride and feelings of empowerment from Canadian Inuit than I did 30 years ago.

In Alaska, ANCSA, now nearly 40 years old, has produced mixed results with some regional corporations doing well, while others aren't. Many village corporations struggle to develop community-based cash economies. The oil boom is in decline and many think the only way to keep it going is to pump oil from the Arctic Ocean. In Alaska, native peoples

find themselves in a jurisdictional fight with government over subsistence hunting rights and self-determination. To use an old cliché, in Alaska the natives are restless.

Today, in Chukotka, despite small successes here and there, rights to land and self-determination still have a long ways to go. We must re-invigorate our efforts in Chukotka.

Today, ICC's greatest concerns are the same as they were 30 years ago: resource development and its effect on our clean environment, the right to self-determination, and improving the quality of life of our people.

There are other events over the past 30 years that had great impact on Inuit and ICC.

When ICC obtained NGO status at the UN, it opened up a world of opportunity for Inuit. Our NGO status helped get the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Rights. It opened doors to other NGOs and international groups seeking a relationship with Inuit.

The Arctic Council has had a tremendous impact. Our Arctic Council relationship puts ICC in the middle of the development of Arctic policy with our respective countries. I consider the Arctic Council to be the single most important forum for ICC today.

Global warming has captured the attention of the world. Of course, our homeland is entangled in the debate. There seems to be little middle ground in the discussion on what to do. One side would lock up Arctic resources, have a moratorium on development, and put all the animals on the endangered species list. The other side can't wait to develop resources, particularly in the Arctic Ocean, as warmer temperatures lead to a thinning icepack. Both sides, at times, seem to forget that there are people living in the Arctic with some ideas of their own on what to do.

In my opinion, the most significant event over the past 30 years has been the evolution of strong Inuit organizations along with capable leadership to manage them. ICC has done its part over the past three decades and will continue to do so. However, increasingly it's our local, regional and national organizations that will be responsible for the success of Inuit in the *New Arctic*.

Inuit have created many types of organizations: government organizations such as the Greenland Self-Rule, Nunavut, the North Slope Borough and many other government entities; economic organizations involved in mining, airlines, construction and engineering, marine transport, manufacturing, wholesale and retail sales, fishing, oil production and refining, and the list goes on. In many instances, Inuit manage much of the social infrastructure including wildlife management, schools, health systems and other social services. We are not waiting for the outside world to solve our problems for us.

We have been busy organizing since the first ICC General Assembly in 1980. It's a good thing we did because the next 30 years will be more intense than the last 30. I think everyone realizes that the Arctic is at a threshold. These are the days we

continued on page 7

continued from page 6

used to talk about 30 years ago, hoping they would never come. Fortunately, we are better prepared than we were 30 years ago. Thanks to all of us, thanks to our collective hard work.

It's important to remember that ICC is a tool that works on behalf of all Inuit at the international level. ICC is only as strong as the support it gets from its members. The reason our local, regional and national organizations are responsible for our future success is simple. Collectively they are the recognized social, economic and political voice of Inuit. Responsibility lies where it should, with our people. That's the way it should be. That's what we were fighting for 30 years ago.


Life has changed forever for us, we can't go back. We are part of the modern world and no amount of wishful thinking will change that. If you don't believe me, talk to our youth. They have a vision of the future that's different from their grandparents. It sounds like a cliché, but it's true: our youth are the future.

In the *New Arctic* it's important that we cooperate on many issues and on many levels. Cooperation needs to take place among our regional and national organizations, not just within the context of ICC anymore. I think this is critical for our success in the future. There is a possibility that we could slip back into isolation from each other, stuck in our respective countries. This would be a tragedy. If there ever was a time for Inuit unity, it's now. We don't always have to agree, but we should communicate, cooperate and work together on the issues. This

is our common responsibility and obligation. We owe it to our future generations.

So, what can we expect in the *New Arctic*? Well, we can expect more of the same, except much more intense and faster, faster, faster. Our well-known ability to adapt will be tested as never before. Surviving with our culture and identity intact won't be easy. We will need to work together, communication and cooperation is absolutely necessary looking ahead to the next 30 years.

Resource development is here in a big way and some of it is our own. Inuit have the responsibility to allow development that's balanced, safe and environmentally sound. ICC has always stood for sustainable development and that means cultural sustainability as well. Inuit must benefit from any development in their territory. Resource development in the Arctic without benefit for Inuit is colonialism and should not be tolerated.

Offshore oil drilling activities by Inuit should be discussed particularly in light of the ongoing oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. This environmental catastrophe raises concerns that Inuit should sit down and talk about. It's important that we let each other know what we're up to. I hope we can have this talk during this week. The consequences of our actions concern us all. Welcome to the era of the *New Arctic*. 

Thank You for Supporting ICC Alaska's participation in the Nuuk General Assembly!

We are grateful for your generous contributions. Quyannaq-puk!



City of Barrow



Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative




Shell Alaska



Thank you to our planning committee members: Marie Itta, Elsie Itta, Jackie Hill, Minnie Naylor, Melanie Edwards, Dominique Thomas, Vivian Korthis and Bridget McCleskey for all their hard work and dedication to the overall success of the General Assembly. ICC Alaska's member organizations also made in kind contributions and donated staff time and without their support, the General Assembly would not have been possible. Thanks to all who made Alaska's participation in the ICC General Assembly a success!

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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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