

DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN
Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA
Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 20-23 Planning for Climate Change: Weathering Uncertainty • Iqaluit, Nunavut • www.planningforclimatechange.ca

July 28-30 Northwest Arctic Borough Energy Summit • Kotzebue, Alaska

August 11-14 8th Arctic Parliamentarians Conference • Fairbanks, Alaska

August 13-15 Climate, Language and Indigenous Perspectives Fairbanks, AK • <http://www.uaf.edu/anlc/clip>

August 22-26 6th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences • Nuuk, Greenland • <http://www.icass.gl>

September 24-27 5th Open Assembly of the Northern Research Forum • Anchorage, Alaska • <http://www.nrf.is>

October 21-22 Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium • Tromsø, Norway

November 7 Arctic Sovereignty Workshop • Kuujuaq, Quebec



ICC Executive Council Members L to R: Valentina Leonova (ICC Chukotka), Duane Smith (ICC Canada), Carl Chr. Olsen "Puju" (ICC Greenland), Violet Ford (ICC Canada), Jim Stotts (ICC Alaska Alternate), Patricia Cochran (ICC Chair), Tatyana Achirgina (ICC Chukotka Alternate), and Aqqaq Luk Lynge (ICC Greenland)

Executive Council Meets in Inuvik

By ICC Alaska Staff

The Executive Council (EC) met April 14-16 in the hamlet of Inuvik, in Canada's Northwest Territory. There was a full agenda to discuss as it had been over a year since the council had gathered together.

Inuvik was bustling with other events going on that same week. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), Canada's national Inuit organization, was holding an Inuit Education Summit with attendees involved in education issues from across the country. Prior to the EC Meeting, ICC participated in a Circumpolar Inuit Climate Change Policy Workshop. This workshop was hosted by the Canadian government under the auspices of the United Nations International Polar Year. In addition, the Governor General (Queen of England's personal representative) was in town to present Nellie Courneya with the Northern Medal. All the hotels were booked solid and there was an air of festivity throughout Inuvik.

After dispensing with the minutes and country reports, the council got down to the issues of the day. Under the heading of UN issues, the EC discussed the upcoming UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) which was held April 21-May 2 in New York. The UNPFII has an arctic seat which is rotated and shared between ICC and the Saami Council. Aqqaq Luk Lynge (Greenland) stepped down as a delegate to the UNPFII at the meeting and will be replaced by someone from the Saami Council.

Under the heading of Arctic Council (AC) issues, there were several discussion items. The council discussed the need to be more involved in AC deliberations as this is the best place to participate in the creation of national and international policy that affects the Arctic and its inhabitants. It was decided to send Violet Ford (Canada) to the Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) meeting which was held in Solvaer, Norway April 23-24. At the SAO meetings leaders from the Arctic nations make national and international policy decisions.

Under the AC Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), there is a project to hold an Arctic Indigenous Language Symposium. There will be more on this project in future issues of DRUM.

continued on page 4



ICC ALASKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ICC Executive Council

Edward Itta, President
Chuck Greene, Vice President

North Slope Region

Eugene Brower
(North Slope Borough)

George Edwardson
(Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope)

Richard Glenn
(Arctic Slope Regional Corporation)

Northwest Arctic Region

Marie Greene
(NANA Regional Corporation)

Jackie Hill
(Maniilaq Association)

Martha Whiting
(Northwest Arctic Borough)

Willie Goodwin Jr.
(Elder Representative)

Bering Straits Region

Loretta Bullard
(Kawerak, Incorporated)

Tim Towarak
(Bering Straits Native Corporation)

Lee Ryan
(Youth Representative)

Southwest Region

Myron Naneng
(Association of Village Council Presidents)

A Message from ICC-AK President Edward S. Itta



Will endangered species listing help polar bears or hurt subsistence?

There's been a lot of noise in the press about the addition of the polar bear to the list of threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Months of speculation finally ended with Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne's announcement last month that the polar bear will be listed. Secretary Kempthorne was clearly unhappy at having to make the announcement, but he was pretty well backed into a corner by environmental groups and the courts.

Kempthorne's big concern is the sweeping nature of the law surrounding listed species. The listing sets in motion a process aimed at protecting the bears and restoring the lost habitat (sea ice) on which the listing is based. The government fears that North Slope oil and gas development could be blocked by the listing. Our whalers and hunters worry that subsistence activity could be restricted if federal regulators get overly excited as they respond to the requirements of this powerful law.

There's no question that the government needs to take action to slow the loss of sea ice, but I'm not convinced the Endangered Species Act is the right tool for the job. Once an animal is listed, agencies must create a recovery plan that restricts human activity in the habitat area. Federal officials tell us they don't plan to curtail subsistence hunting or related travel, but federal mandates often lead to unintended consequences.

My fundamental disagreement with this approach is that the ESA listing focuses on activities up here in the Arctic, while the source of the problem is nowhere nearby. It's urban and industrial activity down south that contributes to melting sea ice. That's where CO2 is being produced by cars and power plants.

Some observers say the polar bear listing is simply a back-door attempt through the courts to impose nationwide restrictions on CO2 production. If so, we're being used like pawns in someone's elaborate game, and that is what offends me. There's plenty of room for disagreement about climate change, but since there is unanimous agreement among all the competing interests that Native subsistence hunting is in no way responsible for the loss of polar bear habitat and poses no threat to the health of the bear population, we should not be placed on the front lines of the climate change debate.

I hope federal enforcers will keep this in mind and honor our timeless presence in the Arctic as they roll out their recovery plan. We care deeply about preservation of habitat for marine mammals and all the wildlife species in the far northern world. We also want to see appropriate policy responses at the national level. I believe government, industry and citizen groups need to come together and tackle the problem honestly and openly.

Effective solutions may require all Americans to make some lifestyle changes. That could be tough medicine to swallow. We don't mind taking our medicine when it's appropriate; just don't ask us to swallow everyone else's.



Students Participate in Circumpolar Inuit Field Program

By ICC Alaska Staff

Two Inuit college students, Ralph Sinnok from Shishmaref and Kelsi Ivanoff from Unalakleet, will join Inuit youth from Canada, Greenland, Chukotka and Saami from Northern Europe to participate in an exciting opportunity to observe innovative science first-hand.



Ralph Sinnok

On board the Canadian research icebreaker CCGS Amundson in the Beaufort Sea, students will participate in fieldwork activities of various research teams, lab activities and lectures from July 12-24. In addition, there is a focus on traditional knowledge. Students will bring traditional knowledge relating to climate change from their communities to share with other participants.

The Circumpolar Inuit Field Program is part of a Canadian-led international research project, the Circumpolar Flaw Lead System Study that examines the physical-biological coupling in the flaw lead system near Bank's Island in northwestern Canada. The program was planned in collaboration with ICC and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), Canada's Inuit organization.

Ralph will be entering his second year at the University of Alaska—Fairbanks this fall and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. Ralph aspires to become an engineer working on Shishmaref's relocation project and then with other projects throughout rural Alaska. Ralph's parents are Warren and Helenmarie Bessi Sinnok.

Kelsi Ivanoff just finished her third year at the University of Alaska—Anchorage and plans to complete her studies and earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Portland State University. After graduation she plans to move back to Alaska to work in an area benefiting Alaska Natives. Kelsi's parents are Steve and Zoe Ivanoff.



Kelsi Ivanoff

Good luck Ralph and Kelsi!



CCGS Amundson Photo By Martin Fortier, ArcticNet

continued from page 1

The council discussed industrial development in the Arctic such as offshore oil and gas leasing and marine shipping. ICC is concerned about a lack of standards and policies to guide and regulate these activities, and believes such policies need to be established prior to any further developments. The AC Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group meeting was held in St. Johns, Newfoundland May 31-June 4. At that meeting the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) and Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines were discussed. Jim Stotts (Alaska) and Duane Smith (Canada) attended on behalf of the ICC. There will be more information on these two topics in future issues of DRUM.

Under the heading of Climate Change, the council received a progress report from the Chair on the progress of the Indigenous Peoples Global Summit on Climate Change (IPGSCC) Conference, scheduled for April 2009. There is more on this elsewhere in this newsletter. The council discussed other upcoming international meetings on climate change and expressed the need to be



ICC Executive Council: Jim Stotts (ICC Alaska Alternate), Violet Ford (ICC Canada), Duane Smith (ICC Canada) Photo By: ICC Alaska

involved. The council then adopted the Amundsen Statement – the ICC 2012 Climate Change Roadmap – which is a coordinated strategy to address the issue of climate change with Inuit involvement. The Amundsen Statement can be found on our website.

The council was informed of a workshop on Arctic Sovereignty that will be held in Kuujuaq, Quebec on November 7, and which is sure to draw a lot of interest. Coincidentally, November 7 is Inuit Day, the birthday of Eben Hopson Sr., founder of the ICC.

There was an update on the European Union seal ban. Several European nations have bans on the sale of sealskin products. This creates serious economic hardship for Inuit who sell sealskins, especially in Canada and Greenland. The recent polar bear listing under the Endangered Species Act was discussed along with efforts to list walrus and ice seals under the same legal scheme.

The next EC Meeting will be held in Anadyr, Chukotka August 7-12.



ICC Foresaw Rising Energy Costs

By ICC Alaska Staff

The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) recently held town hall meetings around the state to enlist community ideas as it creates the State Energy Plan in response to increasing energy costs. AEA's mission is to reduce the cost of energy in Alaska.

The report from the ICC General Assembly held in Frobisher Bay 25 years ago identified increasing energy costs in Inuit communities throughout the Arctic as a concern.

In an adopted resolution titled "Alternative Energy Systems for Inuit Communities," ICC recognized the high cost of energy in the Arctic and the need for Inuit participation in energy planning and management. This resolution also called for research into an Inuit energy fund to finance the development of technology for energy conservation and alternative energy development.

With today's record high oil prices and an energy crisis in our communities, this issue is as relevant today as it was 25 years ago.



In this photo are some of the Alaskan delegates to the ICC General Assembly in Frobisher Bay in 1983. Taken from: "The Arctic Policy Review" October-November 1983. Right to Left: Roosevelt Paneak, Edna McLean, Robert Suolu, Rex Okakok, Eugene Brower, Willie Kasayulie, Philip Guy, Marie Schwind, Becky Norton, Robert Newlin, and John Schaeffer.

Report from ICC Chair, Patricia Cochran



One of my largest tasks has been fundraising and planning for a summit that will bring together Indigenous peoples from all regions of the world to discuss climate change. "Leading the Way on Climate Change: Indigenous Peoples Global Summit on Climate Change" will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, in April 2009. We expect the Global Summit to involve an estimated 200-300 invited Indigenous participants.

The Global Summit will enable Indigenous peoples to share their experience, lessons, aspirations and potential approaches to dealing with climate change based on their cultural and traditional understandings as well as the current conditions they face, and to enable them to strengthen their voices and bring them to bear in national and international decision-making. The larger intent is to frame issues in a way that makes sense globally and contribute significantly to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Protecting the cultures of Indigenous peoples and the natural environments to which they are inextricably linked is a vital component of a global approach and strategy to effectively deal with climate change.

Potential themes of the Global Summit include spiritual landscapes and sacred sites, traditional knowledge, national and international laws and standards, human rights and rights-based approaches to adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity and subsistence, youth, elders, and gender perspectives, partnering with civil society and with national governments, and coordination and advocacy by Indigenous peoples nationally and internationally.

On-the-ground realities articulated by Indigenous peoples themselves will guide discussion of policy objectives to respond to climate change and determine political strategies to achieve these objectives.

Four key objectives will be addressed through the Global Summit. They include:

- Consolidate, share and draw lessons from the views and experiences of Indigenous peoples around the world on the impacts and effects of climate change on their ways of life and their natural environment, including responses;
- Raise the visibility, participation and role of Indigenous peoples in local, national, regional and international processes in formulating strategies and partnerships that engage local

communities and other stakeholders to respond to the impacts of climate change;

- Analyze, discuss and promote public awareness of the impacts and consequences of programs and proposals for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and assess proposed "solutions" to climate change from the perspective of Indigenous peoples; and
- Advocate effective strategies and solutions in response to climate change from the perspective of the cultures, world views and traditional knowledge of Indigenous peoples, including local, national, regional and international rights-based approaches.

We are very excited to be organizing the Global Summit and hosting Indigenous peoples from throughout the world. Please look forward to receiving more information about the Global Summit in the near future.



IPGSCC Steering Committee, L to R Joseph Ole Simel (National Coordinator, Maimyoto Pastoralists Integrated Development Organization, Masai, Kenya), Andrea Carmen (Executive Director, International Indian Treaty Council, USA), Tarcila Rivera Zea (Executive Director, Chirapaq-Centro de Culturas Indigenas del Peru), Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, (Chair, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, The Philippines), Patricia Cochran (Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Anchorage, Alaska), Not in Photo: Cletus Springer (Chief Caribbean Division, Organization of American States)

Check Out Our New Website!
www.iccalaska.org
"DRUM" is now online!



Unalakleet Culture Camp

By Greta Schuerch

The Inuit Circumpolar Youth Council of Alaska (ICYC) announces the Unalakleet North River Inuit Culture Camp to take place July 30 - August 3, 2008. In the spirit of strengthening ties to the land and wisdom of our elders, the ICYC is scheduling an intense program that will foster communication and education about traditional living within a cross-generational group of Inuit. The ICYC will aim to create an environment where four generations of Inuit from four geographic regions of Alaska (North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Bering Strait and Southwest) unite to share their knowledge of heritage and traditions, as well as to explore techniques in creating an avenue of change for existing negative social patterns.

Youth applicants were asked to answer, "Where do you see your community in terms of health, wellness and culture today? Where do you see your community in the same regard in ten years? How do you plan to become or remain active in positive change and overall wellness of Inuit youth?"

Attendees accepted to participate will engage in various activities such as fishing, cutting and storing of salmon, harvesting berries and greens, learning traditional medicinal uses of native plants, net mending and hanging as well as birch bark basket making. Participants will also engage in dialogue on current issues that impact them today and in the future. Topics will include suicide prevention, language revitalization, substance abuse and prevention, wellness, resource development and Arctic marine shipping.

Each day, participants will be divided into groups of individuals from each generation of Inuit, who together will rotate between the established workshops throughout the camp grounds led by local experts in the previously mentioned topics. They will then regroup as a whole to engage in meaningful dialogue and develop plans for returning to their home communities to share their knowledge, raise awareness and take action.

The ultimate goal is to inspire participants to foster change in their home communities and to promote the overall wellness of Inuit youth and others.

The planners for the Culture Camp ran into a road block recently when Governor Palin vetoed the ICYC's grant in the State capital budget. The original plans were for 80 people to attend, and we are now planning a 40-person camp as funding is limited.

ICYC held a fundraiser at the Tap Root Cafe in Anchorage on Saturday, June 14. Featured musicians were the Culture Brothers, Phillip Blanchett, Elizabeth Hensley and Allison Warden. Poetry was shared by Cathy Rexford, Trina Landlord, Tim Argetsinger and Aakatchaq Schaeffer.

ICYC thanks everyone who came to share their talents and to those who contributed financially. By explaining our cause and passing a seal skin hat around loaned to us by Willie Hensley, we were able to raise nearly \$1,100 to help fund the Unalakleet Culture Camp.



Planning Underway for Inuit Health Conference

By ICC Alaska Staff

A major ICC initiative is moving ahead as plans take shape for the Circumpolar Inuit Health Conference in Canada during 2009. In addition to the conference itself, other expected outcomes include:

- Development of a circumpolar database on chronic disease programs and initiatives.
- Coordination of Inuit participation in health research, communication and capacity building.
- Facilitation of Inuit input in the 2009 International Congress on Circumpolar Health in Yellowknife, Canada.
- Preparation of a series of analytical papers which address significant circumpolar Inuit health issues.
- Maintenance of a database of circumpolar health research and program delivery initiatives.

Interested Inuit health professionals should feel free to contact the ICC Alaska office for further information.

Sila-Inuk in Kangiqtugaapik, Baffin Island

By Lene Kielsen Holm, ICC Greenland

ICC-Greenland's climate change project, Sila-Inuk, traveled to Kangiqtugaapik/ Clyde River, Baffin Island, Canada in April under the guidance of Lene Kielsen Holm of the Greenland office. In Kangiqtugaapik, Lene led the Siku-Inuit-Hila (Sea Ice–People–Weather) project launched last year in Qaanaaq, Greenland.

It was Siku-Inuit-Hila's third cross-cultural workshop in Kangiqtugaapik to study sea ice and Arctic communities as part of the National Science Foundation-funded project, "The Dynamics of Human-Sea Ice Relationships: Comparing Changing Environments in Alaska, Nunavut and Greenland."

The project fosters an exchange of knowledge among hunters and scientists about sea ice, human use of sea ice, and climate change. Hunters from Qaanaaq, Kangiqtugaapik, Utqiagvik, Alaska, and scientists from these countries are the members of the Siku-Inuit-Hila team.

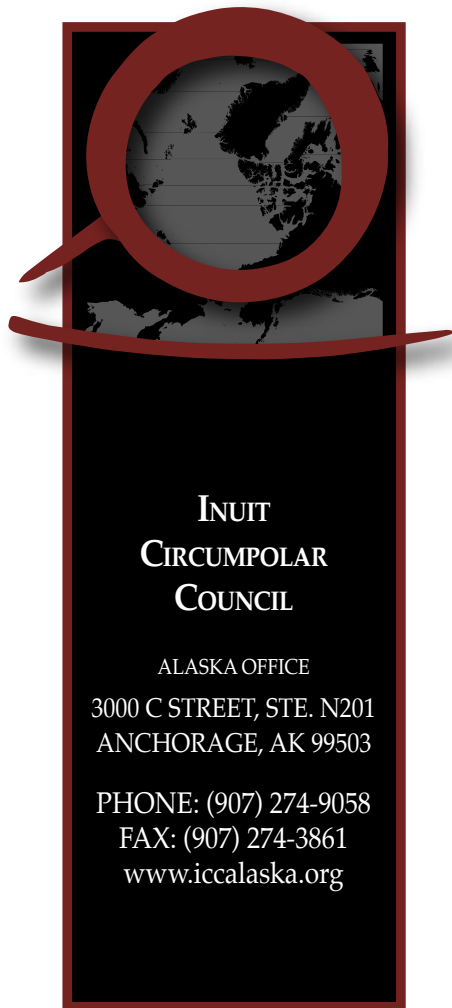
Team members from the different regions have held workshops with elders and other knowledgeable persons to discuss sea ice and climate change issues, map changes, document related language/terminology, and talk about how recent climate and environmental changes have influenced their everyday lives. The data collected from these meetings is being incorporated into the work of Siku-Inuit-Hila, as is data collected from sea ice measurement instruments in these three arctic regions. Sea ice monitoring is part of the project and the instruments are maintained by local people in the partner communities.

The outcome of Siku-Inuit-Hila is first and foremost the exchanges among the hunters and scientists, and also a book that is projected to be launched at the next ICC General Assembly, in 2010.

The team members: Mr. Mamarut Kristiansen, Mr. Qaerngaq Nielsen and Ms. Toku Oshima, hunters from Qaanaaq and Savissivik, Greenland. Mr. Ilkoo Angutikjuak, Mrs. Igah Sanguya and Mr. Joellie Sanguya, hunters from Kangiqtugaapik, Canada. Mr. Joe Leavitt, Mrs. Nancy Leavitt and Mr. Warren Matumeak, hunters from Utqiagvik, Alaska. Andy Mahoney, National Snow and Ice Data Center, University of Colorado at Boulder, Henry Huntington, Eagle River, Alaska, Lene K. Holm, ICC Greenland, Yvon Csonka, University of Greenland, Shari Gearheard, Kangiqtugaapik/NSIDC-Boulder, Geela Tigullaraq, Kangiqtugaapik.



Sila Inuk - L to R: Qaerngaq Nielsen (Savissivik, Greenland), Lene Kielsen Holm (ICC Greenland), Toku Oshima, (Qaanaaq, Greenland), Mamarut Kristiansen, (Qaanaaq, Greenland). Photo By: Lene Kielsen Holm

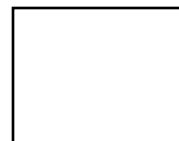


INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL

ALASKA OFFICE

3000 C STREET, STE. N201
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

PHONE: (907) 274-9058
FAX: (907) 274-3861
www.iccalaska.org



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.

Newsletter distribution

Please feel free to make copies and distribute our newsletter to others!!

We will also have our newsletter available online at www.iccalaska.org in the future.

If you would like our newsletter sent to you via email, please email us at icc@iccalaska.org

Photos

Do you have nice cultural or community photos that you would like to share?

*We need photos for our newsletter and website!
Please contact us at icc@iccalaska.org*

